SUNDAY
January 25, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
30 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

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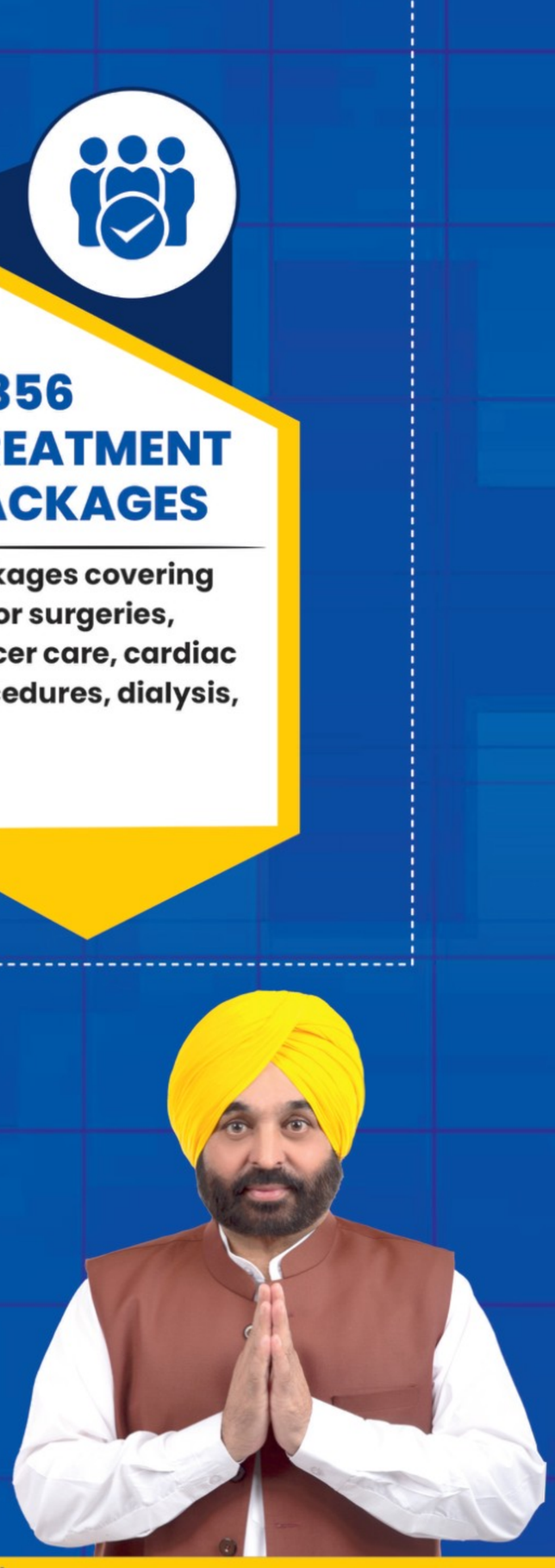
Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab



Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

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SUBDUED PATTERN

Study links bone health, schizophrenia

Large genetic study suggests certain stretches of DNA may influence brain function and bone structure

SCIENCE» PAGE 15

Board of Peace: the chairman's circle

PROFILES » PAGE 17

Can India eliminate malaria by 2030?

FAQ » PAGE 16

Scotland replaces Bangladesh in T20 WC

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Party workers want me to be CM, says HDK

SHIVAMOGGA
Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy said that many party workers want him to become the Chief Minister after the 2028 elections. » PAGE 9

SSLC toppers to get cash, not laptops

BENGALURU
The State government has decided to distribute cash prizes instead of laptops to students of government high schools who score highest marks in the SSLC examination. » PAGE 4

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 8 & 9
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3.5 lakh Bengal voters yet to appear for SIR hearing

Around 10% of 32 lakh 'unmapped' voters did not appear for hearings, say officials; high number fuels suspicion of bogus entries; voters may approach BLOs for fresh hearing, citing valid reasons

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

About 3.5 lakh voters marked as "unmapped" under the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal have not turned up for hearings, raising concern among election officials. During the first phase of the SIR in the State, about 32 lakh voters were categorised as unmapped as they could not establish any link with the 2002 electoral rolls.

According to State Election Commission officials, the no-show rate among unmapped voters stood at over 10%.

The Election Commission has extended the last date for hearing till February 7 after the initial hearing period for unmapped voters ended this week.

List of uncertainty: People waiting to attend an SIR hearing in Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal in January this year. PTI

People who failed to appear can approach their Booth Level Officers (BLO) to seek a fresh hearing slot, though they will have to provide a valid reason for their absence. Poll officials said that though many of the no-shows could be genuine cases, the high number has fuelled suspicion that some entries may be bogus.

'Women vulnerable'

A study by the Sabar Institute have found that 43.7% of women voters deleted from draft electoral rolls in the State were categorised as the "permanently shifted", indicating high chances of relocation due to marriage. The top five areas having such cases were Pandabeswar, Jamuria, Mandirbazar, Dantan, and Nabagram. The analysis also showed that 37.29% of deleted women voters were marked as dead, 16.54% as untraceable, and 2.48% as already enrolled.

"Women are among the most vulnerable groups when it comes to citizenship documentation," Sabir Ahamed of the Sabar Institute told *The Hindu*. He noted that this documentation gap could have contributed to the exclusions during the SIR process.

DISCREPANCY LIST IS OUT
» PAGE 12
AMARTYA SEN SLAMS SIR
» PAGE 12

U.S. official hints at removing Russian oil penalty levy on India

Reuters
MUMBAI

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Friday signalled the potential removal of additional 25% tariffs on India following a sharp reduction in Indian imports of Russian oil.

Trade relations soured last August when U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a 25% levy on top of the 25% 'reciprocal tariffs' in response to India's imports of Russian crude.

"Indian purchases by their refineries of Russian oil have collapsed. So that is a success. The tariffs are still on, 25% tariffs for Russian oil are still on. I would imagine there is a path to take them off," Mr. Bessent said in an interview with *Politico* at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

India's Russian oil imports in December dropped to their lowest in two years, lifting the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)'s share of Indian oil imports to an 11-month high, trade data show.

> Purchases by their [India's] refineries of Russian oil have collapsed.... the 25% tariffs for Russian oil are still on. I would imagine there is a path to take them off
>
> **SCOTT BESSENT**
> U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY

Mr. Bessent's remarks came amid heightened pressure from Mr. Trump, who had earlier warned that tariffs could increase further unless India curtails its oil purchases from Russia.

No more home-cooked food in jails

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid a series of incidents highlighting preferential treatment to prisoners inside the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara, Bengaluru, the police have put in place a new set of rules, restricting the supply of food, clothing, and bedding to prisoners from outside.

The Department of Prisons and Correctional Services issued a circular to this effect on Saturday. Alok Kumar, DGP, Prisons and Correctional Services, directed prison authorities across the State to immediately implementation the new rules. The new rules completely ban cooked food from private sources.

However, certain uncooked and packaged food items will be permitted during admission or interviews.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 2

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First step: An anganwadi worker weighs a Siddi Badshah child during a routine health check at Jambur village in Sasan Gir.

Little dreams: A Siddi Badshah child with her doll in a hut at Jambur village, a predominantly Siddi settlement.

Hard at work: A young member of the community works at a jaggery unit on the outskirts, supporting his family through daily labour.

On track: Students of the Adivasi Ashram Shala practise jumps at the school, where many Siddi Badshah youth train for competitive sports.

From African shores to Gujarat's Gir

The Siddi Badshah community, descended from Africans brought to Junagadh centuries ago, thrives in Jambur and Shirvan villages of the Gir region

Vijay Soneji
soneji.v@thehindu.co.in

The Siddi Badsha community, with its roots in Africa, thrives today in Jambur and Shirvan – two villages in the Sasan Gir region of Gujarat. Shirvan lies within the Gir forest.

Studies suggest that the Siddis were brought to India by the Portuguese to work for the King of Junagadh 300 years ago. The king, it is said, was impressed by their exceptional strength and endurance. He bestowed upon them the name "Siddi Badshah", meaning "kings of labour".

Members of the community are said to have assisted the king in tracking Asiatic lions in the forests of Sasan Gir. Owing to their natural adaptation to jungle life, they eventually chose to settle there permanently. The king later allotted them land in Jambur village, located on the banks of the Saraswati river, which became a predominantly Siddi settlement.

"Our genes are different. We are stronger, our endurance is exceptional, and our age is difficult to judge because we are born to survive in the jungle," said Sadik Ahmad Makwana, president of the Talala Adivasi Seva Sangh. The physical features of the Siddi resemble those of their African ancestors, including curly hair and skin tone. They are adept at a unique, high-energy dance form (Dhamal) that traces its roots to East Africa.

Mr. Makwana said that Asiatic lions have never attacked members of the Siddi Badshah community, as both understand and respect each other's habitats. "The lions sense that the Siddi community protects them and never intends harm," he said.

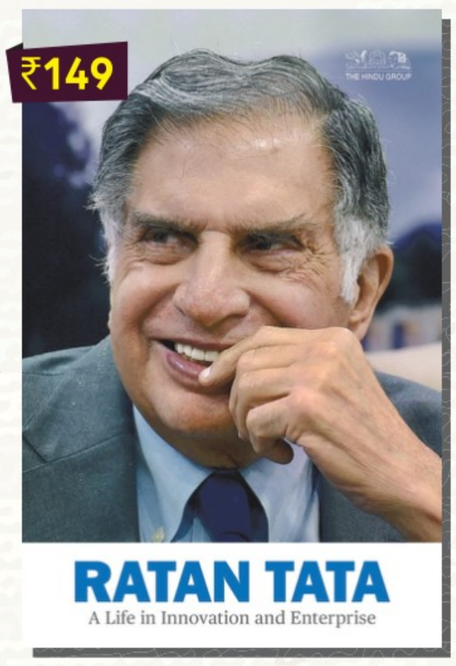
While most men work as labourers and women manage households, several members of the community serve in the Indian Army and Navy. The Siddis are also highly skilled in sports. Seven members of the community have won international gold medals in judo.

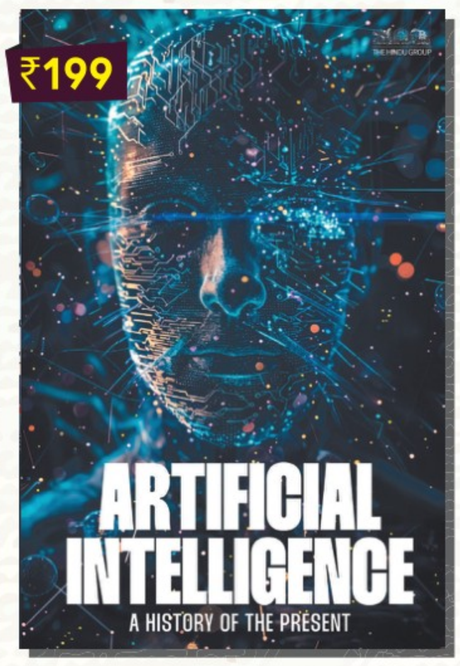
Training is conducted at the Talala Taluka Adivasi Seva Sangh Ashram Shala in Jambur, where around 90 boys and girls are currently being coached. "We need better sports infrastructure and proper grounds so that we can excel in other sports as well," said Shahid, a local member of the Siddi Badshah community.

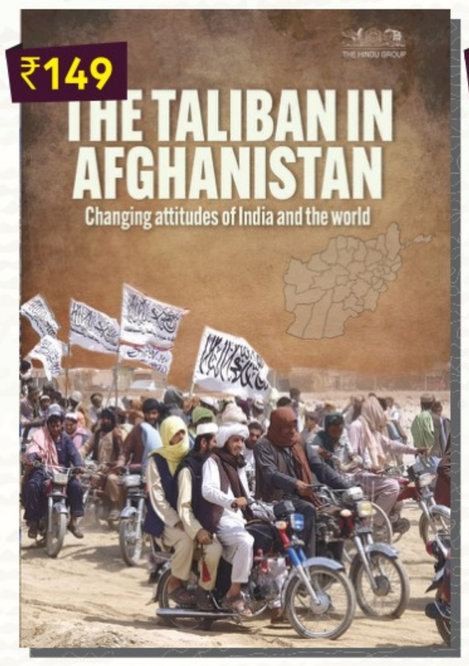
Chasing gold: Young athletes during a training session at the Adivasi Ashram Shala.

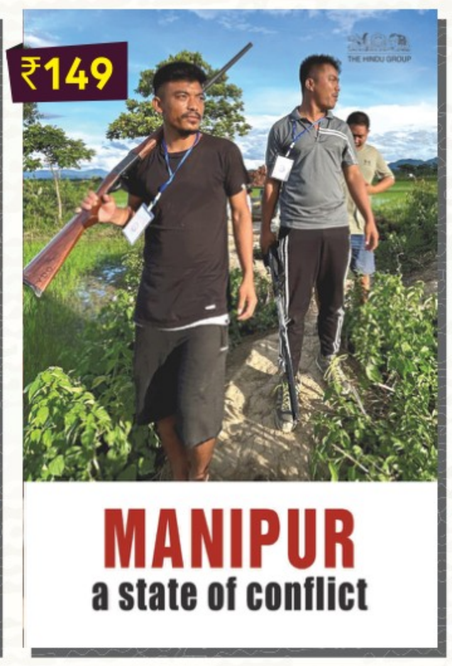
THE HINDU GROUP

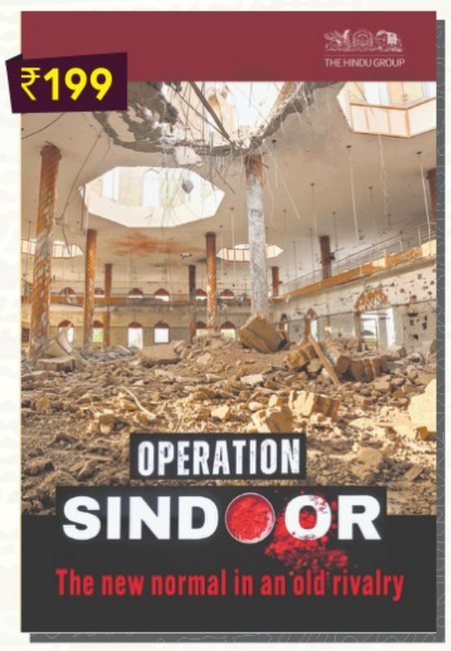
SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP











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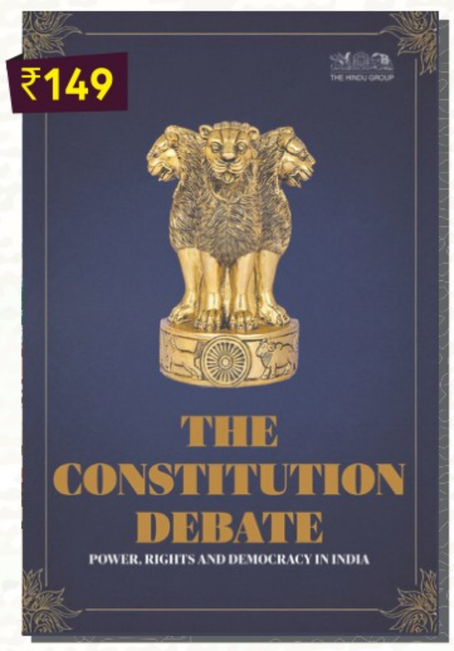

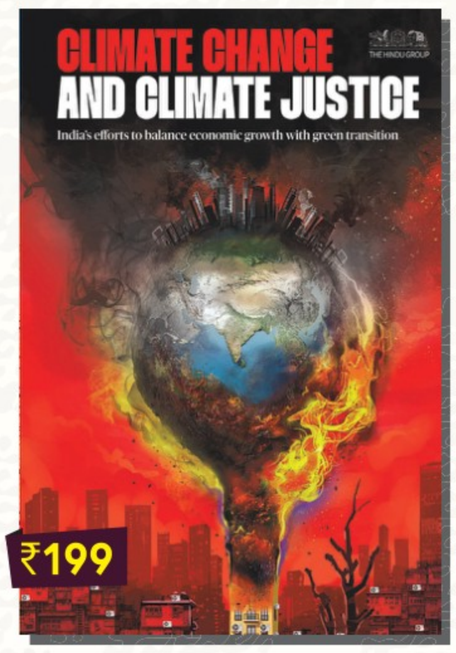

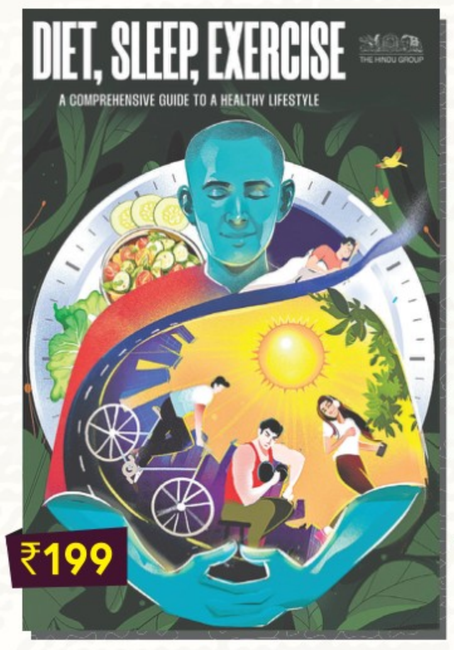

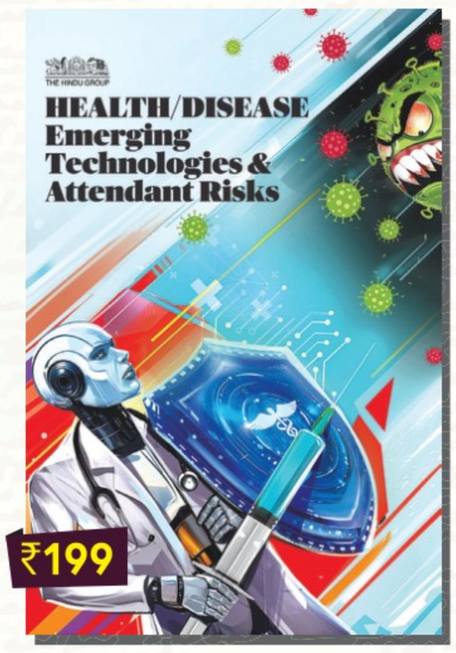

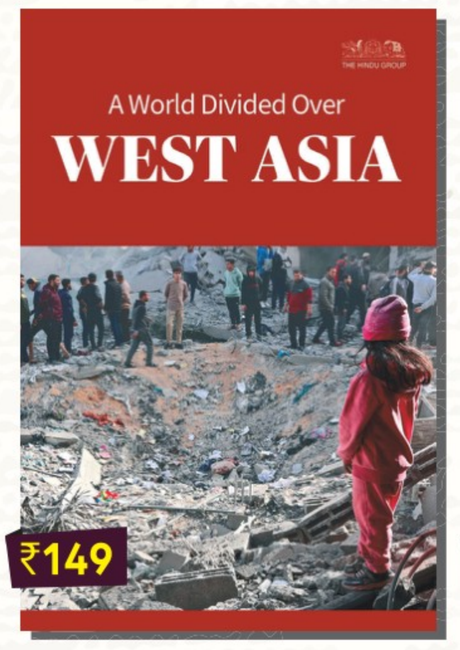

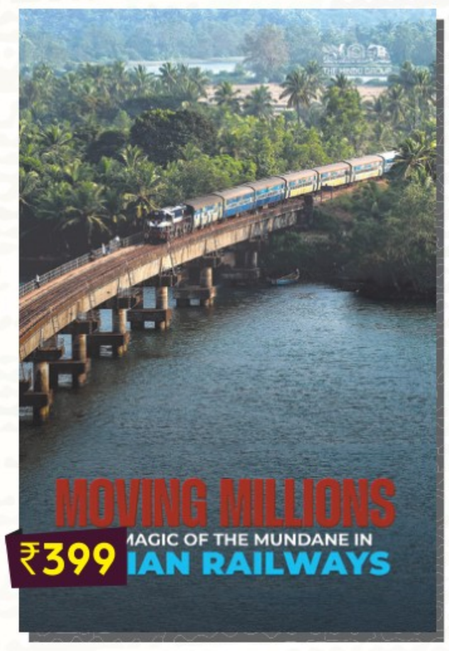

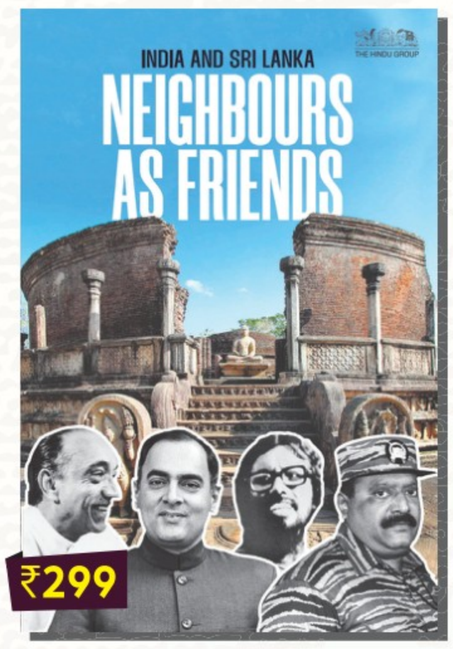

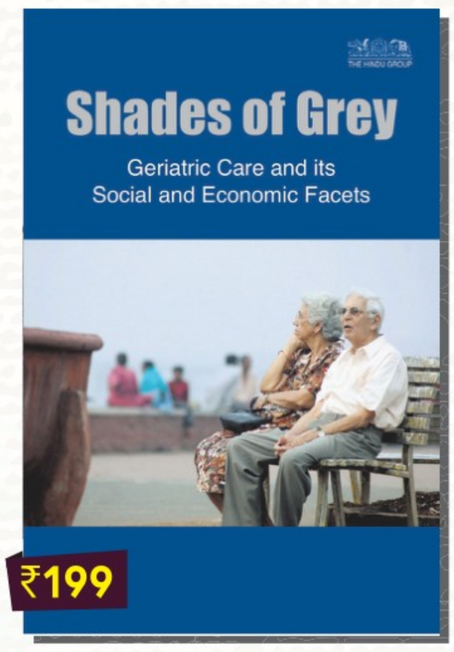

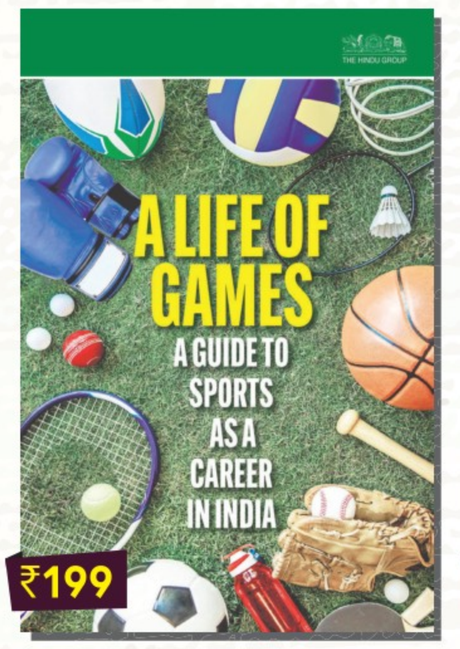

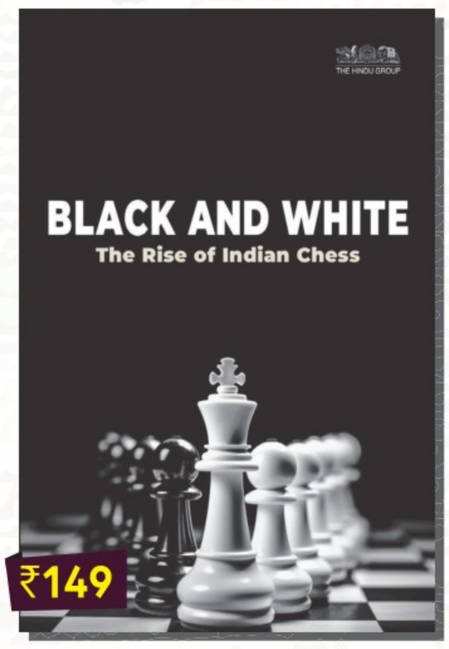

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15-year-old boy killed in train accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 15-year-old boy was killed in a train accident near Nelamangala, on the northern outskirts of Bengaluru, on Friday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Yogendra, a class 9 student studying at a private school on the city's outskirts. The incident occurred around 7 a.m., according to a railway police officer.

The family members told the police that Yogendra had left home early in the morning without informing anyone.

The incident came to light after a railway beat constable noticed the body near the tracks and alerted the officials, following which the boy's family was informed.

"We have registered a case of unnatural death. At this stage, it is unclear why he was near the railway tracks," the officer said.

SBI extends CSR support for children with clubfoot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Bank of India (SBI) has extended significant support under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative by contributing to an Early Intervention Programme benefiting 200 children with developmental delays in Kolar district. As part of the initiative, the bank has also sponsored 300 clubfoot braces for 150 children affected by clubfoot deformity. The NGOs stated that the contribution would greatly enhance access to timely intervention and mobility aids for children in need, a release stated.

No cooked food, limited clothes: State issues new prison regulations

The regulations have come in the backdrop of a series of exposés of preferential treatment to prisoners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Under the new rules, cooked food from private sources has been completely prohibited. FILE PHOTO

The Department of Prisons and Correctional Services on Saturday issued a circular with fresh regulations, partially restricting the supply of food, clothing, and bedding to prisoners from private sources. The order cites concerns related to prison security, safety, overcrowding, and administrative feasibility for the regulation. The new set of regulations comes in the backdrop of a series of exposés of preferential treatment to prisoners inside Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, Bengaluru.

Alok Kumar, Director General of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services, has issued orders to all prisons across the State directing immediate implementation of the new rules.

While Section 30 of the Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963 permits civil and undertrial prisoners to receive food, clothing, and other necessities from private sources, the fresh circular noted that all prisoners are already being provided with all that is adequate by the Prisons and Correctional Services Department as per the existing laws and manuals. In view of security and health concerns, the receipt of such items from outside the facility has now been regulated and restricted.

Allowed and restricted items through private sources

Fresh fruits allowed (not exceeding 2 kg in total)
- Banana
- Apple
- Mango
- Guava
- Chikoo

Bakery items (not exceeding half kg in total)
- Cooked food completely restricted
- No bedding permitted from private sources
- One additional blanket may be permitted
- Two pairs of inner and outer clothing

Dry fruits allowed(not exceeding half kg in total)
- Almond
- Cashew
- Walnut
- Dried grapes

Restrictions on food

Under the new rules, cooked food from private sources has been completely prohibited. It will not be allowed to be brought into prisons either at the time of admission or during interviews. However, certain uncooked and packaged food items will be permitted from private sources during admission or interviews, subject to thorough examination by prison authorities.

The allowed foods include fresh fruits such as bananas, apples, mangoes, guavas, and chickoos, limited to a total of two kilograms per person. Dry fruits, including almonds, cashews, walnuts, and raisins, are limited to half a kilogram in total. Bakery and confectionery items such as biscuits, cookies, namkeens, and chips are also limited to half a kilogram. No other food items will be allowed.

Clothing and beds

The regulations also place limits on clothing brought from outside. Prisoners will be permitted to possess only two pairs of outer clothing and two pairs of inner garments, apart from the clothes worn at the time of admission. Any excess clothing found during searches will be seized and confiscated by prison authorities.

The circular also states that since bedding is already provided by the Prison Department, no bedding will ordinarily be allowed from private sources. However, one additional blanket has been permitted on request, subject to thorough security checks and availability of space. Any prohibited or suspicious items detected will be dealt with in accordance with the law. The circular directs all prison authorities to strictly enforce the new regulations. Violations by prisoners will warrant action under the Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963, the Karnataka Prison Rules, 1974, and the Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services Manual, 2021. Prison staff have also been instructed to maintain proper documentation of seizures and confiscations.

The new regulations will override any earlier circulars, instructions, or orders related to the receipt of food, clothing, or bedding from private sources.

PSI recruitment scam: ED attaches properties worth ₹1.53 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties worth ₹1.53 crore in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam, in which suspended IPS officer Amrit Paul was an accused.

The attachment was carried out on Friday, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

According to the ED, the attached assets include residential properties belonging to Paul, the then Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) (recruitment), and Sridhar H., a suspended head constable.

The case pertains to alleged irregularities in the recruitment of police sub-inspectors in Karnataka during 2021-22. "The Karnataka Police Recruitment Cell had conducted an examination to fill 545 vacancies for the post of sub-inspectors in the State Police Department. A provisional list of successful candidates was published. After the tentative result of the examination was out, there were allegations of cheating and corrupt practices," the ED said. The central agency initiated its investigation based on an FIR registered by the High Grounds Police Station and the Criminal Investigation Department against several police officials and candidates.

The ED said that its investigation revealed that Paul allegedly played a key role in the conspiracy. The ED stated that he facilitated unauthorised access to the strongroom where OMR answer sheets were stored.

He was accused of handing over the keys of an almirah containing the strongroom keys to Deputy Superintendent of Police Shanth Kumar, enabling accomplices, including Sridhar, to tamper with the answer sheets of ineligible candidates to ensure their selection.

According to the agency, bribes ranging from ₹30 lakh to ₹70 lakh for a candidate were allegedly collected. The illicit proceeds were reportedly layered by projecting them as hand loans and were later used for the construction of residential properties.

The ED added that it had earlier filed a prosecution complaint in the case, and the court has already taken cognisance of the offence of money laundering.

₹19.46 crore worth properties of trustees of BMSE Trust attached

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Saturday announced that they have provisionally attached three immovable properties, including one plot and two flats, with a total market value of ₹19.46 crore, belonging to the trustees of the BMS Educational Trust in connection with the seat-blocking scam uncovered last year. The attachment was carried out on January 21, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The agency initiated its investigation based on FIRs registered by the Malleswaram and Hanumanthanagar Police. The FIRs pertain to alleged irregularities in admissions to engineering seats through the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA).

Admission process

The ED conducted searches on May 26, 2025, and June 25, 2025, and claimed to have found unaccounted-for cash being collected during the admission process for engineering courses at colleges controlled by the trust. The investigation found that seats were allegedly sold by the college management through middlemen and agents who acted as educational consultants, with cash being collected directly from students, ED said. The ED stated that the cash collected from students was not disclosed in the books of accounts of the BMS Educational Trust. During the searches, the agency seized ₹1.86 crore in cash from premises linked to the trustees, management, and agents associated with the trust.

Diary entries and WhatsApp chats indicated the collection of unaccounted for cash

Further evidence, such as diary entries and WhatsApp chats, indicated the collection of unaccounted for cash amounting to ₹20.20 crore from the sale of engineering seats, ED said. According to the ED, evidence has been corroborated by individuals involved in the admission process, including college staff, management personnel, and agents.

The investigation has also revealed that the proceeds generated from the alleged sale of engineering seats were used for the personal benefit of the trustees of the BMS Educational Trust, the ED added.

R-Day celebrations: 37 contingents to take part in parade

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Participants taking part in the rehearsal of Republic Day celebrations at Manekshaw Parade Ground in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

As many as 37 contingents, comprising over 1,100 participants, will take part in the 77th Republic Day celebrations at the Manekshaw Parade Ground in the heart of Bengaluru on Monday, showcasing India's unity and diversity. The parade will include 11 platoons by the armed forces, nine police platoons, and seven school platoons.

Members of the Army, Air Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Tamil Nadu Police, Scouts and Guides, National Cadet Corps, Sevadala, and the Police Band will participate in the march past.

The parade will also feature contingents from two charitable trusts, Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind and Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.

Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot will hoist the national flag, inspect the guard of honour, and deliver his Republic Day address. Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, and Bengaluru Deputy Commissioner Jagadeesha G. will also attend the ceremony.

Cultural programmes will include a *Sankranti Sambhrama* performance by students of Samyukta Pre-University College, Harohalli. About 750 students from Bagalagunte Government School will present a performance depicting the Unification of India. The police department will also present a band performance.

On Saturday, Mr. Singh said that over 2,000 police officers would be deployed at the venue. As many as 100 CCTV cameras and four baggage scanners have been installed. In addition, ambulance services, fire and emergency services, and medical teams will be stationed at the venue to handle emergencies. Citizens interested in attending the event can obtain passes through the Seva Sindhu website. Around 2,000 e-passes have been issued for the general public. Attendees must compulsorily carry their passes along with a government-issued identity card.

No-parking zones

- Central Street (from Anil Kumble Circle to Shivajinagar bus stand)
- Cubbon Road (from CTO Circle to K.R. Road and Cubbon Road Junction)
- M.G. Road (from Anil Kumble Circle to Queen's Circle, on both sides)

Traffic diversions

In view of the expected large gathering, traffic restrictions will be imposed on Cubbon Road from 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. The restrictions will be in force on both sides of the stretch between BRV Junction and Kamaraj Road.

Vehicles coming from Infantry Road towards Manipal Centre should proceed via Infantry Road to Safina Plaza, turn left onto Main Guard Cross Road, and continue through Alice Circle, Dispensary Road, Kamaraj Road, and Dickenson Road junction before taking a right turn to reach Cubbon Road Junction.

Vehicles travelling from Manipal Junction towards BRV Junction will be stopped at Manipal Centre. Commuters may turn right at Webbs Junction, proceed along M.G. Road, turn right at Anil Kumble Circle and continue towards BRV Junction.

Vehicles moving from Anil Kumble Circle towards Cubbon Road should proceed straight at Central Street Junction, turn right onto Infantry Road, pass through Safina Plaza, turn left at Main Guard Cross Road, continue to Dickenson Road junction, take a right turn at the K.R. Road junction, then turn left to reach Cubbon Road and proceed towards Manipal Centre Junction.

'R-Day of the Poor' to be observed at Kogilu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 'Republic Day of the Poor' will be organised on January 26 at Fakeer Colony in Kogilu Layout, Yelahanka – where the civic authorities razed more than 160 houses – by Dudiyuva Janara Vedike, in collaboration with other organisations.

According to the organisers, the event is being held to reaffirm the core constitutional values of social justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. The programme aims to foreground the lived realities of marginalised communities while commemorating the adoption of the Constitution. The organisers said this demonstration is aimed at underlining the relevance of constitutional principles in addressing the concerns of the urban poor and marginalised sections of society.

'ReclaimConstitution' to organise rare philatelic exhibition on Republic Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Citizens' collective #ReclaimConstitution will organise a first-of-its-kind philatelic exhibition titled "Makers of Our Constitution" on Republic Day at Sabha Blr on Kamaraj Road.

The exhibition is a curation of rare postal stamps, covers, cancellations, and archival materials, which showcases both prominent and lesser-known members of the Constituent Assembly who shaped the Constitution of India.

"Through these seldom-seen artefacts, the exhibition narrates the collective effort behind the making of our Constitution and documents the renewed public engagement and growing enthusiasm for constitutional values in recent years, offering visitors a distinctive experience," said a statement from the organisers.

The exhibition, which will be held between 1-6pm on January 26, is being organised as part of the Grand Finale of the nationwide #ReclaimConstitution Quiz. The quiz, aimed at deepening constitutional awareness among students, culminates after a closely contested preliminary round which saw participation from over 1,600 students from more than 200 schools across 20 States and 5 Union Territories.

The finalist teams represent six states and regions: Kendriya Vidyalaya IIT Guwahati; Jyoti Public School, Lahli, Haryana; Sudarshan Vidya Mandir, Bengaluru; Carmel School (Steel), Durgapur; Shri Ram Centennial School, Patna; and Carmel Higher Secondary School, Goa.

The event will feature an eminent panel of Guests of Honour, including Justice Abhay Oka (former judge, Supreme Court of India), Magsasay awardees Aruna Roy and P. Sainath, Chiranjiv Singh (former ambassador to UNESCO), and Ashwini K.P. (Special rapporteur to the United Nations).

Ahead of the start of the Grand Finale, Justice Abhay Oka will formally release a pocket edition of the Constitution of India.

Four held for harassing woman and assaulting fiancé

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have arrested four men for allegedly harassing a woman and assaulting her fiance under the influence of alcohol in southeast Bengaluru's Madiwala recently.

The accused have been identified as Mohith, Vijaykumar, Tejaswi, and David, all aged between 25 and 35, police said. The incident occurred on January 19 around 1 a.m., when the couple were talking near Maruti Nagar in Madiwala.

According to the police, the accused had been partying at a house in Maruti Nagar, and two of them stepped out to buy cigarettes. While returning, they noticed the couple and allegedly passed a vulgar comment at the woman, prompting her to shout at them.

An investigator told *The Hindu* that the couple followed the accused, during which the woman's fiance questioned them about their behaviour.

"The accused then called two of their friends and assaulted the woman's fiance. Although she tried to intervene, the accused continued the assault and, in the melee, touched the woman inappropriately," the investigator said.

Intricate art: A woman stitches embroidery on a sari at her home.

Before the beat: A performer paints face before presenting the traditional *Dhamal* (folk dance form) for tourists at a resort.

Rhythm and fire: The community members perform the high-energy *Dhamal* dance, rooted in African tradition, at a resort near Gir.

Final touch: A Siddi Badshah woman repairs the walls of her hut with cow dung in Shirvan village.

Daily bread: Women prepare the evening meal inside their hut in Shirvan village.

LED hoardings in city invite ads ahead of official clearances

Screens are running messages such as 'Advertise with us' and 'Contact for advertising', along with contact details. Many of them are already displaying advertisements, despite a strict warning against such activity in the bylaws

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

A huge advertisement hoarding at Cunningham Road in Bengaluru on Saturday. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

Taking a cue from the recently notified Advertisement Bylaws, commercial establishments that are engaged in self-advertising through LED hoardings are now inviting companies to advertise through them. This move has come even before corporations have begun granting permissions through the One-Time Opportunity (OTO) window.

Scores of LED hoardings have cropped up across the city, especially in the Central Bengaluru District (CBD). Screens are running messages such as 'Advertise with us' and 'Contact for advertising', along with contact details. Many of them are already displaying advertisements, and some are even running video ads, despite a strict warning against such activity in the bylaws.

Lack of authorisation

Well-placed sources in two city corporations confirmed that although they have enquiries from individuals seeking to regularise self-advertisement as commercial advertising, these applications are yet to be reviewed, and no authorisation has been granted so far.

The lack of authorisation means that these commercial establishments have not yet undergone scrutiny or received clearances from the corporations. Such approval would require the establishments to fulfil all the criteria listed in the Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules, 2025.

Commercial advertising

On January 13, the Urban Development Department (UDD) notified the new Advertisement Bylaws, lifting an eight-year ban and paving the way for the new city corporations to generate a source of revenue. Although advertisements were banned for eight years, self-advertising was still permitted, strictly after obtaining permission from the zonal offices of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The self-advertisement provision allowed individuals to display advertisements in their own establishments. For instance, a clothing brand could advertise only its own products, including LED displays, on its private property. However, advertising for other companies remained prohibited. Despite the rule in place, it was rampantly violated across the city due to poor enforcement. Such advertising is still prevalent in some areas, even though the North and Central Corporations undertook a special drive and disconnected power connections to illegal hoardings. According to some sources from the corporation, both corporations removed more than 80 LED hoardings in the last week.

Considering the widespread violations despite the ban, the GBA has allowed the commercialisation of self-advertising rights through the OTO window, which could be an income source.

New rules

The notified Advertisement Bylaws state: "The self-advertisement-based permissions obtained for the LED display under any of the previous Advertisement Bylaws and which are presently valid and within their permission period shall be given OTO to convert the same to a commercial advertisement hoarding."

It further states that such regularisation shall be permitted only if there are no unpaid advertisement taxes or fee arrears as on the date of notification of the rules that the LED displays are sought to be converted into a commercial hoarding. A No-Dues Certificate should also be obtained from the Advertisement Section of the City Corporation.

"Such an application, once approved as per eligibility by the Commissioner of the concerned City Corporation, shall be allowed to display commercial advertisements for a period of five years from the date of the order of approval," the notification states.

Without completing these steps, commercial establishments are not permitted to advertise anything beyond self-advertising. However, some establishments appear to have read the rules proactively and have already begun inviting advertisements.

Considering the rush with which commercial establishments are soliciting advertisements and the strong interest shown by companies, as confirmed by corporation sources, Bengaluru is set to be flooded with LED advertisements, particularly in commercial areas.

SCE: March 30 publication date of final GBA voter list

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Commission has mandated 100% verification of the voter lists by Voter Registration Officers, who must submit a verification letter to the SEC. FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka State Election Commission (SEC) has fixed March 30 as the date for the publication of the final ward-wise voters' list for the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

In a revised circular issued on January 22, the Commission laid down the schedule for finalising the electoral rolls. The circular clarifies that the ward-wise voters' list for the five corporations will be prepared by adopting the existing Assembly electoral rolls, without conducting a fresh enumeration.

The Commission has mandated 100% verification of the voter lists by Voter Registration Officers, who must submit a verification letter to the SEC. In addition to this, District Election Officers and Commissioners of the respective corporations are required to independently verify 10% of the ward-wise voter lists and submit certification to the Commission.

Meanwhile, addressing officials at a meeting on Saturday, GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao directed that the voters' list preparation process be carried out in accordance with the rules, in a transparent manner. Referring to the revised circular issued by the SEC, he stressed that election-related work must be conducted responsibly and systematically. Mr. Rao instructed officials to inspect ward boundaries to avoid confusion and directed Electoral Registration Officers to dedicate two to three hours daily exclusively to election-related duties. Booth Level Officers were asked to conduct door-to-door verification for inclusion, correction, and deletion of names, ensuring proper documentation.

KMF unveils new range of products

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chief Minister on Friday launched a new portfolio of value-added dairy products introduced by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) under its flagship Nandini brand. They were unveiled in the presence of KMF Managing Director Shivswamy, MLAs Nanje Gowda, and Ashok Kumar Rai.

"The latest line-up emphasises high-protein nutrition, probiotic wellness products, premium ghee with QR-based traceability, and consumer-friendly pack sizes. With the increasing demand for healthier dairy options, the new products aim to strengthen the KMF's foothold in both urban and rural markets," said the KMF in a release.

Newly launched products: N-Pro Milk (High Protein Milk) 500 ml at ₹27; Paneer (Medium Fat) 200 gm at ₹90; GoodLife Pure Ghee (High Aroma) 500 ml at ₹380, and 1 litre at ₹760; Nandini Pure Ghee 200 ml at ₹165, 500 ml at ₹360, and 1 litre at ₹720; Probiotic Curd 200 gm at ₹35; Probiotic Mango Lassi 160 ml at ₹15; Dairy Whitener 14 gm at ₹5, 28 gm at ₹10, 200 gm at ₹90, 500 gm at ₹180, 1 kg at ₹355, 10 kg at ₹3,400; Nandini Cow Milk 160 ml at ₹10; and Nandini Curd 140gm at ₹10.

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• Authentic tea when added to cold water will not dramatically turn it red
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NIMHANS study proposes new model for early protein deposit formation in Parkinson's disease

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Researchers at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, have shed new light on early molecular events that may trigger Parkinson's Disease (PD), proposing a shift from conventional theory that has guided drug development for decades.

Their study has suggested that disease-specific chemical changes in Synuclein- a protein strongly linked to Parkinson's- may promote the trapping of various cellular proteins, seeding the formation of Lewy bodies (protein deposits in the brain's nerve cells) much before visible protein aggregates appear. Lewy bodies are a pathological hallmark of PD and related disorders such as Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB) and Multiple System Atrophy (MSA).

Led by Padavattan Sivaraman, Additional Professor in the department of biophysics, with Sneha Jos, a PhD scholar, as lead author, the study has been published in *Communications Biology* (Nature portfolio) on January 8. It was carried out in collaboration with researchers from BRIC-inSTEM, MAHE-Bengaluru, and CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh.

Parkinson's, the second most common neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's, is characterised by the loss of dopamine-producing neurons and the accumulation of Synuclein-rich inclusions. only. FILE PHOTO

Beyond the 'aggregation' model

Parkinson's, the second most common neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's, is characterised by the loss of dopamine-producing neurons and the accumulation of Synuclein-rich inclusions. For decades now, scientific efforts have focused on blocking Synuclein aggregation into fibrils, assumed to be the primary driver of the disease.

However, drugs designed on this principle have repeatedly failed in clinical trials.

Findings

"Our findings suggest that early, disease-specific misinteractions of Synuclein monomers may be key events that initiate Lewy body assembly," said Dr. Sivaraman, noting that modifying the therapeutic focus could open up new avenues to treating the condition.

The team of researchers examined two Parkinson's-linked post-translational modifications commonly found in diseased brain tissue- C-terminal truncation and serine-129 phosphorylation (pS129).

These modifications change the protein's charge and structure, exposing sticky regions that encourage unintended protein binding. Using biophysical assays, the researchers observed that modified Synuclein showed broad and promiscuous binding with unrelated cellular proteins, unlike the more specific interactions seen with the normal variant, behaving like molecular 'adhesives'.

Based on these observations, the authors proposed that disease-modified Synuclein monomers may act as scaffolds that recruit diverse proteins and organelles into dense clusters, potentially explaining Lewy body nucleation and growth.

Previous ultrastructural studies showing truncated Synuclein in Lewy body cores and phosphorylated Synuclein at the periphery support this view.

"This opens up a new dimension. Instead of focusing only on fibrillization properties, therapies should also aim to prevent abnormal binding behaviour of disease-modified Synuclein variants," Dr. Sivaraman said.

Why this matters

In India's rapidly ageing population, Parkinson's Disease is a cause of significant concern. Not only is the disease expected to rise with the increase in the elderly population, there is also a growing tide of early-onset Parkinson's disease.

In India, the average age of diagnosis is 51, nearly 10 years earlier than the global average of 60, and together this could mean a significant burden of the disease in the near future, making research into therapeutic efforts in this direction, crucial.

Stating that the findings offer fresh clues on how Parkinson's may begin at the cellular level, the doctor said the study explains how chemical changes in Synuclein can turn a normal protein into one that sticks to and traps other proteins, possibly setting off Lewy body formation. The work also brings together biophysics and brain pathology to explain a long-standing puzzle about how these disease structures originate.

Researchers said such early changes could be better targets for future drugs, allowing intervention before irreversible nerve cell damage sets in. The study adds to NIMHANS' growing body of work on Synuclein biology, including recent findings on its nuclear role as a histone chaperone, positioning the institute at the forefront of mechanistic Parkinson's research.

SSLC toppers to get cash prize instead of laptops

The new directive will be applicable from 2024-25; the move has drawn the ire of many

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to distribute cash prizes instead of laptops to students of government high schools who score highest marks in the SSLC examination.

However, the move has drawn the ire of many. Under the Quality Assurance and Student Motivation Initiative Action Plan incentive programme, the government has been rewarding three class 10 toppers who studied in government schools from each taluk with a laptop, since 2010-11. The government issued an order on January 22, directing the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) to instead distribute a cash prize of ₹50,000, instead of a laptop. The new directive will be applicable from the academic year 2024-25.

The government had already given an administrative approval for ₹3.25 crore to distribute laptops for toppers in 2025-26, even as laptops were not yet distributed for 2024-25. But mid-way the government has now decided to change the nature of the scheme based on a proposal by the KSEAB.

A total of 758 toppers eligible for the scheme for the academic year 2024-25 will also now get cash prizes, credited to their bank accounts, and not laptops. FILE PHOTO

"If cash prizes are distributed to students instead of laptops, it will be beneficial for their future education. This money will help students enroll in good colleges and purchase textbooks and other equipment," said a senior official of the KSEAB. The government has directed that the cash prize be disbursed through the State Scholarship Portal (SSP) to the bank accounts linked to the students' Aadhaar numbers via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). A total of 758 toppers eligible for the scheme for the academic year 2024-25 will also now get cash prizes, credited to their bank accounts, and not laptops.

However, the School Development Monitoring Committee (SDMC) has opposed the government's decision. "The government's move to suddenly change the nature of the scheme is not right. In the IT era, laptops are more useful and convenient for students to study optimally. However, in most cases, parents will end up using the cash prize amount provided to the students. Moreover, it is not possible to buy a good laptop for ₹50,000 at the current market. Therefore, the government should reinstate the scheme of providing laptops to students," said Umesh G. Gangavadi, State president of the SDMC, adding that a petition would be submitted to the Chief Minister in this regard.

AIIMS team reviews cardiac care at Jayadeva institute

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A five-member team from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, visited the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research here on Friday and reviewed patient care services, treatment protocols, and overall administration at the tertiary cardiac institute.

During the visit, the team inspected the outpatient and inpatient sections, intensive care units, cardiac surgery department, cath labs, laboratories, and support services, including the Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) and laundry. The officials took note of the patient flow, hygiene practices, and unit-wise functioning across the facility.

After the inspection, AIIMS Director M. Srinivas said Jayadeva had emerged as one of the country's busiest cardiac centres with close to 1,800-2,000 outpatients daily. "The culture of this institution is its biggest strength," he said, describing Jayadeva as an internationally recognised centre for cardiac care. He commended the institute for clean premises, streamlined systems and patient satisfaction, and congratulated its director, B. Dinesh.

Atal Community Centre inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Padmashree Institute of Management and Sciences (PIMS) Forum inaugurated the Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC-PIMS) in Bengaluru on Thursday. Established under the Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog, the centre was inaugurated by Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswami of the Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt.

It aims to nurture grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, Vivekanand Jalimanchi S/o Gangadhar, R/at No.1, 1st Floor, Shree Ganga, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Patel Bayrappa Layout, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru-560073 do hereby solemnly state that as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card (No.9534 4504 1189) my correct name is **VIVEKANAND JALIMANCHI.** But in my SSLC Marks card (No.470292) my name is mentioned as **VIVEKANANDA JALIMANCHI.** In my Pan Card (AHYPJ3196R) my name is mentioned as **VIVEKANAND G JALIMANCHI.** In my Driving License (No. KA28 20030001706) my name is mentioned as **VIVEKANAND**. I further state that all the above five names belongs and refers to same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dated 19.01.2026 sworn to Notary.

सब जज–IV पटना सिटी ।
स्वत्व वाद संख्या–247/21
विरेन्द्र कुमार मिश्र, ...वादी
बनाम
पुरुषोत्तम कुमार वगैरह ..प्रतिवादीगण
नोटिस बनाम :–
(1) Madhuri Prasad W/o Shambhu Sharan Prasad (2) Anshuman Kumar S/o Shambhu Sharan Prasad, S7H-405, Haren, Purva fountain Square, Marathalli, Airport Road, Near Overbridge, Banglore, Pin Code-560037 एतद् द्वारा आपदोनों को सूचित किया जाता है कि आपदोनों के विरूद्ध उपरोक्त वादी मेरे न्यायालय में स्वत्व वाद 247/21 लाया गया है जिसमें आप दोनों के विरूद्ध सम्मन, नजारत एवं डाक द्वारा भेजा गया लेकिन आपदोनों उपस्थित नही हो रहे है। इसलिए इस समाचार पत्र के माध्यम से आपदोनों को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक–05.02.26 व समय 10.30 बजे दिन को स्वयं या अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से उपस्थित होकर उचित जवाब दाखिल करें अन्यथा आपदोनों की अनुपस्थिति में वाद की एकपक्षीय सुनवाई कर आदेश पारित किया जायेगा। आज दिनांक 07.01.26 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर व न्यायालय के मुहर से जारी किया गया।
सब जज–IV पटना सिटी ।

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT-II)
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001
O.A. No. 1334/23 FORM NO.13 [See Regulation 15(1)(n)1/16(3)]
Bank of Baroda
V/s
M/s Akash Timber and Plywood and Another
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993
D2. Sri. Kirthi Limbani
S/o Sri. Keshavalal Limbani, Aged about 48 years, R/at No.¼, Near Micro Gate, B.G Road, Ayyappa garden, Adugodi, Bengaluru-560030 Mob: 9742280015
D3. Sri. Kailash Keshavalal Limbani
S/o Sri.Keshavalal Limbani, Aged about 48 years, R/at No. ¼,, Near Micro Gate, B.G Road, Ayyappa garden, Adugodi, Bengaluru-560030 Mob: 9742280013.
Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the defendant(s) you for recovery of a sum totally of **Rs.21,53,344.77** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty Four and Seventy Seven Paisa Only) plus future 8.00% & 10.55% Rate of interest and penal interest together with interest unapplied interest.
The above the mentioned Defendant(S) is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate duly authorized agent, in support of his/their deense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publiation or on **13.02.2026. at 10.30 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and datermined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **8th day of January 2025 .**
By order of the Tribunal
Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bangalore

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : 2254, Kousalya, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Road, Mysuru-570005

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Ramapura Branch, Ramapura Gramapanchayathi, Ramapura – 562160, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist Ph: 9494598880, Mail Id: ubin0918407@unionbankofindia.bank.in

1. Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-applicant And Guarantor:
1) Mr. Yelle Gowda, Ramapura Village And Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara-562160
2) Mrs. Shashi, Ramapura Village And Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562160
Amount due : Rs. 6,63,165-00 as on 31-12-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses.
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All The Part And Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Smt Shashi,** Bearing Property / Khaneshumar No.256/184, Ramapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist. **Measuring East-West: 22 Feet, North-South : 43.5 Feet, Total: 957 Square feet. Bounded On The East:** Road, **West:** House Of Pyasegowda, **North:** Marigowda's Malavaiah Vacant Space, **South:** House Of Puttamma.

Reserve Price :
Rs. 13,85,505-00 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Five Only)
Earnest Money To Be Deposited :
Rs. 1,38,551-00 (Rupees One Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty One Only)

Mylanayakana Hosahalli Branch, Bevoor Road, Opposite Govt Middle School, Mylanayakanahosahalli Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District-562160. Contact no: - 7780582212, Mail Id: ubin0918814@unionbankofindia.bank.in

2. Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-applicant And Guarantor:
1) Mrs. Gowramma W/o Nanjegowda, Thoutanahalli, H-Mogenhalli Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramangara – 562108
2) Mr. Nanjegowda S/o Kenchegowda, Thoutanahalli , H-Mogenhalli Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562108
3) Mr. Vishkantaiah T N, S/o Nanjegowea, Thoutanahalli, H-Mogenahalli Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562108
4) Mr. Chandan T N, S/o Nanjegowda, Thoutanahalli, H-Mogenahalli Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562108
Amount due : Rs. 17,07,016-00 as on 31-12-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses.
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All The Part And Parcel Of The Residential House In The Name Of **Mr. Nanjegowda & Gowramma.** Bearing Katha No. 37/36, Unique No 152900100800700040, Thowtanahalli Village, Byadarahalli Gramapanchayath Maluru Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara. **Measuring East-West: 20 feet, North-South: 33 feet Total 660 square feet, Bounded By East:** 6 feet Passage, **West:** 2 feet Passage, **North:** Own Property & Then 20 CC Road, **South:** Private Property.

Reserve Price :
Rs. 14,92,952-00 (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Ninety two Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Two Only)
Earnest Money To Be Deposited :
Rs. 1,49,296-00 (Rupees One Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Six Only)

Kanakapura M G Road Branch, Opp Govt Maternity Hospital, Main Road, Kanakapura, Ramanagara - 562117 Contact No: 9913265424, Mail Id: ubin0911747@unionbankofindia.bank.in

3. Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-applicant And Guarantor:
1) Mr. Kumar S/o Puttanna, No. 3032/2122, 3031A/2121A, 1st Cross, Vivekananda Nagara, Kanakapura – 562117
2) Mrs. Ramya, No. 3032/2122, 3031A/2121A, 1st Cross, Vivekananda Nagara, Kanakapura – 562117
Amount due : Rs. 7,63,765-00 as on 31-12-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses.
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All The Part And Parcel Of The Residential House In The Name Of **Mr. Kumar,** Bearing Khatha No. 3032/2122, Khatha No 3031A/2121A, Near Sri Ganesha Temple, CMC Ward No 09, 1st Street, Vivekananda Nagara, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramangara Dist, **Measuring For Khatha No. 3032/2122: East-West: 10 feet & Noth-South : 30 feet, For Katha No 3032/2122 East-West : 10 feet, North-South: 30 feet, Total (300+300) = 600 Square feet, Bounded By For Katha No. 3032/2122 East:** Property Of Mr. Rajanna, **West:** Property Of Mr. Rajanna, **North:** Property of Mahesh, **South:** Road, **For Khatha No. 3031/A/2121A, East:** Propperty Of Mr. Kumar, **West:** Property Of Mr. Mariyanna, **North:** Remaining Portion Of Rajanna, **South:** Road.

Reserve Price :
Rs. 12,51,693-00 (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Three Only)
Earnest Money To Be Deposited :
Rs. 1,25,169-00 (Rupees One Lakhs Twenty five Thousand One hundred and Sixty Nine Only)

Date and time of E Auction : Date : 13-02-2026 From 12.00 PM to 5.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
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INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES (ILBS)
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Advertisement ILBS Academic 01/2026
Admission Notice – Ph.D (MCM) Course

Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS) is an autonomous super-specialty institute of excellence under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Deemed-to-be-University status was conferred to ILBS by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956. Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS) is running National Medical Commission (NMC) recognized super-specialty Post-Doctoral Degree Courses in Hepatobiliary.
The Institute is inviting application for admission in Ph.D (MCM) course for the academic session starting from 01st April 2026, as per the details given on the Institute's website https://www.ilbs.in

S. No.	Name of the Course	Seats
1.	Ph.D in Molecular and Cellular Medicine	10

Duration of the Course: Ph.D – 3-5 years duration
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Controller of Examination

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS VARANASI-221004
Letter No.: EL/1252/Works-1185 Date : 23/01/2026
E-TENDERS NOTICE
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Maintenace, BLW, Varanasi acting or and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tenders for the following work: **S.No.:** 01, **Tender No.:** EL/1252/W-1185, **Name of Work:** Provision of Smart Energy Metering System at BLW/Colony, **Approximate cost (Rs):** Rs. 3,85,82,200.93/- **Completion period.:** 9 Months, **Earnest mony.:** Rs. 3,42,900/- **Tender opening date and time.:** 20/02/2026 at 15:00 hrs. **Special Notice:** For detail and to participate e-tender please visit Indian railways- "website: **www.ireps.gov.in**".
P.R.O./BLW/E-11 Dy. Electrical Engineer/M.
/blwvaranasi "website:- blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
('e' Tender Notice for the supply of Stores, No.EPS/117/2025)
PCMM/WCR on behalf of the President of India invites the following advertised tenders through E- procurement System. No manual/postal offers shall be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link website https:/reps.gov.in" for details and for submission of Tender.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tendered Qty.	Due Date
1	38254189B	3/4 INCH (19.1 MM) DIA BULL LOCK BOLT PIN	260486 Nos.	09/02/2026
2	40251393	Sillicon Rubber Compound/RTV Silicon Sealant	27570 Nos.	16/02/2026

" For tenders with estimated value below Rs. 50 lakh, interested firms are advised to visit www.ireps.gov.in".
Sd./-
For Principal Chief Material Manager, West Central Railway, Jabalpur
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **Smt.PUSHPA.S.R** W/o Late.N.Shivashankar and her son **Sri.S.REVANTH,** both residing at: No.Q-95, Siddanna Lane, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru – 560002.
Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.29, PID No.47-139-29, New E.PID No.8376919028, measuring East to West 40ft and North to South 36ft, together with a building thereon, situated at Siddanna Lane, Cubbonpet, Bangalore and bounded on:
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Trade unions unhappy with draft Industrial Relations Rules

Additional Labour Commissioner G. Manjunath says that pre-legislative consultations will be held with all stakeholders before finalising the rules

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Following the Karnataka government's publication of the draft Industrial Relations (Karnataka) Rules, 2026, multiple trade unions have termed some sections in the draft "anti-worker", especially with respect to the right to strike. Meanwhile, the Labour Department officials said this was still a draft and consultations would follow before finalising.

One of the major points raised by the trade unions was the restriction to the right to strike.
K. MURALI KUMAR

'Further suppression'

S. Varalakshmi, general secretary of the Karnataka State committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), argued that the inclusion of stringent provisions that were not in the 2020 codes have further suppressed the fundamental rights of the workers in the State.

Satyanand Mukund, State secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), criticised that despite Congress being in power in Karnataka, the State government had decided to follow what the Central government framed, without trying to change the rules in favour of the working class. One of the major points raised by the trade unions was the restriction to the right to strike.

According to the draft rules, the notice of strike shall be given to the employer of an industrial establishment, signed by the secretary and five elected representatives of the registered trade union in the letterhead of the union, marking copies to the conciliation officer, Labour Commissioner, and the State government. It also proposes that the notice of strike should be accompanied by a resolution passed by a majority of the workmen who are members of the union, and that five workmen sign the notice of strike along with the secretary of the union.

> The inclusion of stringent provisions that were not in the 2020 codes have further suppressed the fundamental rights of the workers in the State
>
> **S. VARALAKSHMI**
> General secretary of Karnataka State committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions

"The rules are placing unnecessary restrictions on unions. Employers can always claim there is no majority support. This way they are trying to ensure there are no strikes at all," said Meenakshi Sundaram, president, CITU, Karnataka.

Mr. Satyanand said that the clause curtails collective bargaining rights that were hard fought for.

The union leaders also criticised the clause which allows employers who employed less than 300 workers to retrench or layoff employees without prior permission from the government.

"It gives a lot of ease to the employers to retrench, layoff and close companies. Today, the size of the factories has shrunk. More than 90% of the factories registered in Karnataka have a strength of less than 300. So, basically, we are allowing 90% of factories the freedom to freely retrench," said Mr. Mukunth.

Mr. Sundaram added that when the threshold was increased to 300 workers in the Bill initially, one of the suggestions was to give the affected employees a compensation equivalent to 90 days of wages per service. "They have reduced it to 15 days now, but the threshold limit in terms of the number of workers has not been reduced. Further, the wage definitions have been changed to reduce the compensation that the affected workers are eligible for," said Mr. Sundaram who alleged that several conditions have been included to ensure that the unions are starved of funds.

.

Consultations to follow

The trade unions also registered their displeasure at the Congress government for not taking a more pro-worker stance, despite labour falling in the concurrent list and thereby giving the State government the power to make change.

Following the notification of the labour codes in November, 2025, Karnataka Labour Minister Santosh Lad, in a previous interaction with *The Hindu*, had said that the government would discuss elaborately with the parties concerned to decide the way forward. Mr. Lad also then criticised the Union government of being "anti-labour". However, the trade unions said that no consultations were held with them before publishing the draft rules.

45-day window

Responding to this, Additional Labour Commissioner G. Manjunath said that pre-legislative consultations would be held with all stakeholders before finalising the rules. The draft rules will be in the public domain for 45 days for feedback.

"The Central government instructed to immediately republish the rules. Earlier when we published the draft rules in 2021, only a few trade unions responded. Based on those comments and feedback from employers, we have updated the draft rules this time. The unions have 45 days to give their suggestions and comments, based on which we will hold consultations," he said.

High Court stays investigation into criminal case registered against Lamborghini supercar driver

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has stayed the investigation into the criminal case registered, based on a social media post, against the driver of a green Lamborghini supercar for allegedly driving in a rash and negligent manner inside Bengaluru city recently and for illegally fitting a silencer emitting noise beyond permitted limit.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on the petition filed by 27-year-old Chiranth B.R. of Bengaluru, who was driving the vehicle owned by his father when it was captured through the dashcam of another motorist, who was travelling behind Lamborghini on Mysuru road.

It was contended that the petitioner was not driving in a rash and negligent manner to attract Section 281 of BNS

No preliminary probe

The petitioner's advocate pointed out that the Kengeri traffic police had *suo motu* registered the First Information Report on January 20 based on the video of the movement of the vehicle posted on an 'X' account earlier this week without holding even a preliminary enquiry.

The petitioner was driving the vehicle "a little fast" and quick on December 14, 2025 as he was lagging behind in the traffic as the other 13 vehicles were already gone much ahead of him on the way to Kodagu as part of an expedition organised by Lamborghini showroom in the city, the advocate said while pointing out that the recorded video of this drive was posted on social media by someone about a month later.

Changed silencer

The petitioner was not driving in a rash and negligent manner to attract Section 281 (driving a vehicle in a manner so rash or negligent as to endanger human life, or to be likely to cause hurt or injury to any other person) of the Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita, it was contended.

Even the speed of the vehicle at that time could be at best about 60-70 kilometres, the petitioner's advocate said while displaying the video of the incident posted on social media.

Taking note of the video, the court orally remarked that the vehicle was moving in a zigzag manner, while also stating that it may not be possible to drive the vehicle in a very high speed in city's traffic. It was also pointed out to the court that there was no retrofitted silencer for the vehicle on the date of registration of FIR, as the vehicle was intercepted in December, 2025, by the Road Transport Officer for having retrofitted silencer and imposed a fine of ₹8,500.

Following this action of the RTO, the retrofitted silencer was removed and a proper silencer was fitted in Lamborghini showroom, which had officially issued certificate of fitment, the petitioner's advocate stated.

Community service

The court orally indicated that it can close the case by asking the petitioner to do some community service, which is a new mode of punishment for certain minor offences prescribed in the BNS, depending upon the outcome of the petition, while adjourning further hearing till February 6.

Choked road

Commuters stuck in a heavy traffic at the NICE Road toll plaza towards Madavara on Tumakuru Road, as a long-weekend holiday travel has causeed severe congestion on the Bengaluru-Pune National Highway on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Milky mushrooms, organic eggs and more at Raitha Santhe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Milky mushrooms, known to have anti-hyperglycemic effects and anti-lipid peroxidation effects, organic eggs and baked products from rural parts were among the multitude of products sold directly by farmers at the Raitha Santhe organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), on the Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) campus on Saturday.

This time, around 150 farmers had set up stalls on the GKVK campus, offering fruits, vegetables, and value-added products.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Direct market access

The Raitha Santhe, held on the last Saturday of every month, is aimed at providing direct market access to farmers while connecting them with urban consumers. This time, around 150 farmers had set up stalls on the GKVK campus, offering fruits, vegetables, and value-added products.

According to UAS officials, this helps eliminate middlemen and ensures better prices for farmers while providing fresh produce to consumers.

"This allows interaction between farmers, consumers, and scientists. It also helps us guide residents on practices such as home and terrace gardening," said K.P. Raghuprasad, from the UAS.

Farmers selling milky mushrooms told *The Hindu* that the direct-sale model has helped reduce losses associated with the crop's short shelf life and ensured freshness for consumers.

The santhe also featured products prepared by small-scale food producers who said participation at GKVK had expanded their consumer base. "I have been coming here for over a year, and the response has been consistent. We are able to sell directly without intermediaries," said Harinatha S. Reddy, a farmer from Bagepalli, who suggested that more frequent markets would benefit sellers of perishable produce.

Police constable arrested under POCSO Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A police constable was arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a minor girl in central Bengaluru while on duty.

The accused has been identified as Yamuna Nayak, a police constable attached to the R.T. Nagar police station. The incident occurred on Friday morning near Freedom Park in the heart of the city.

Harassment

According to the police, Nayak was deputed for bandobast duty at Freedom Park when he allegedly harassed a pre-university college student. The victim later filed a complaint. The Upparpet police have registered a case against Nayak under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act,2012, and taken him into custody.

The case has come to light at a time when the police department is facing public criticism and a series of suspensions.

Reel shoot led to fire at house, say police; Gali sees conspiracy

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A fire that gutted a model house at the G-Square gated layout on Ballari-Belagallu Road late on Friday appears to have been caused by a group of youngsters who had accessed the premises to shoot reels and videos, the police said on Saturday, even as former Minister and Gangavati MLA, Gali Janardhana Reddy, alleged political conspiracy behind the incident.

The model house, owned by Aruna Lakshmi, wife of Mr. Janardhana Reddy, was unoccupied at the time and no injuries were reported. The Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames.

According to the police, the incident occurred within the limits of Ballari Rural Police Station. The site manager of the layout, Rizwaan, lodged a complaint, stating that the fire caused extensive damage to furniture, fittings, and interiors of the house.

Ballari Superintendent of Police Suman Pennekar, who inspected the site on Saturday morning, said preliminary investigation indicated that a group of boys frequently entered the model house to take photographs and shoot reels.

"Based on mobile phone examination and other technical evidence, we have established that two members of the group allegedly lit a fire inside the house. They appear to have done so without realising the seriousness of their act, following which the fire went out of control and engulfed the structure," she said, noting that there were no security arrangements or CCTV cameras at the layout.

Eight persons secured

The police have secured eight persons in connection with the incident. Of them, two are adults, identified as Sohail alias Sahil, 18, and Astham alias Suresh, 32, while the remaining six are juveniles. Their statements, the police said, corroborate with the material and scientific evidence collected so far.

Inspector-General of Police (Ballari Range) P.S. Harsha said that all investigation protocols were followed, including deployment of a Scene of Crime Officer (SOCO) team.

Meanwhile, Mr. Janardhana Reddy alleged that Ballari City MLA Nara Bharath Reddy was behind the incident.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 25	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:17
RISE 11:10	SET 24:00
MONDAY, JAN. 26	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:18
RISE 11:54	SET 00:00
TUESDAY, JAN. 27	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:18
RISE 12:43	SET 00:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	29	15
Bengaluru	28	15

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

108 HIV Act complaints heard since July 2021

According to the consolidated half-yearly report, the complaints pertained to stigma, discrimination, and denial of services between July 2021 and December 2025

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The HIV/AIDS Ombudsman in Karnataka has received and disposed of 108 complaints filed by people living with HIV (PLHA) over the last four-and-a-half years, which officials say is the highest number recorded in the country under the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017.

According to the consolidated half-yearly reports submitted to the Union Ministry of Health, the complaints pertained to stigma, discrimination, and denial of services between July 2021 and December 2025. The mechanism was made operational in Karnataka in mid-2021, following the notification of State rules and the appointment of the Ombudsman.

Gangu Bai Ramesh Manakar, Ombudsman for Karnataka and the State nodal officer for grievance redressal under the Act, said that healthcare settings accounted for the largest share of complaints (53), followed by workplaces (26), educational institutions (23), and community settings (6). No complaints were recorded from emergency medical situations. "Most of the complaints were resolved within the mandated 30 working days," she said.

While Karnataka was among the earliest States to operationalise the Ombudsman mechanism, PLHA groups say awareness about the forum remains limited outside major urban districts. FILE PHOTO

Data showed the number of complaints varied across half-yearly cycles, with 11 cases recorded between July-December 2021, 7 between January-June 2022, 8 between July-December 2022, 12 between January-June 2023, 14 between July-December 2023, 16 between January-June 2024, 17 between July-December 2024, 10 between January-June 2025, and 13 between July-December 2025.

While Karnataka has been among the earliest States to operationalise the Ombudsman mechanism, PLHA groups said awareness about the forum remains limited outside major urban districts.

Sannidhi (name changed), from Sirsi, who has lived with HIV for over 25 years, said the mechanism is crucial for enforcing the rights guaranteed under the Act but remains under-utilised. "With less than 110 complaints in a State where stigma is widespread, especially at ART centres, awareness is the biggest gap," she said.

Naina (name changed), from Shivamogga, who faced issues at a local health facility, said the Act demands zero tolerance for discrimination. "Even one instance affects thousands among our 2.4 lakh PLHA population. Awareness and training are required across districts," she said.

Officials said that both mass and interpersonal campaigns are underway to improve awareness. IEC vans, outdoor media, and digital messaging are being used at the population level, while sensitisation programmes are being conducted for Self-Help Groups, Anganwadi workers, ASHAs, Panchayati Raj institutions and other grassroots stakeholders, apart from representatives from the private sector.

Under the 2017 Act, complaints must be filed within three months from the date of the alleged violation, with a provision for a three-month extension. Complaints can be submitted via email (ombudsman.hiv@karnataka.gov.in), post, helplines - 1097 / 9449846954, or in person, with assistance available for completing Form-A and informed consent. Some States have adopted alternative redressal models. In Kerala, which has an estimated 17,000 cumulative HIV cases, most stigma and discrimination complaints are handled at the district level through rapid response care and support teams led by District AIDS Control Officers. Kerala SACS Joint Director Rashmi Mahadevan said the model allows quick intervention while maintaining confidentiality.

Man consumes poison near Vidhana Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An Ayurvedic doctor on Saturday allegedly consumed poison in front of the Vidhana Soudha in the heart of the city, accusing the police of harassment.

He was immediately shifted to Bowring Hospital and was out of danger, according to the police.

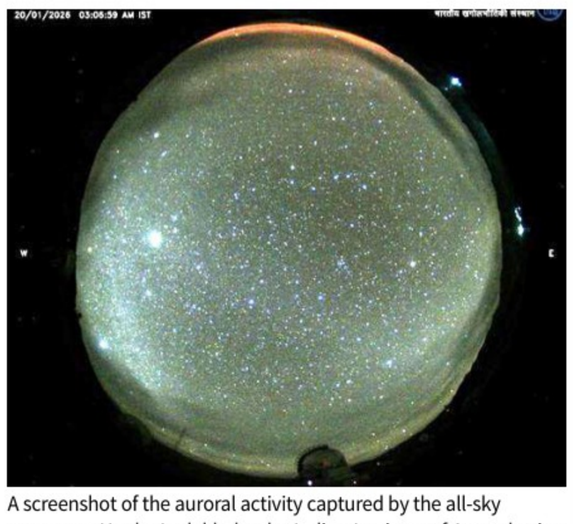
The man has been identified as Nagendra S., 40, a resident of North Bengaluru. The incident occurred around 11.15 a.m. amid heavy pedestrian movement.

A police officer said that Nagendra had already consumed poison before arriving at the spot. He then called mediapersons and accused the police of harassing him for identifying and reporting what he claimed were 'illegal Bangladeshi' residents in the city and for lodging complaints about them.

Nagendra claimed that he was working along the lines of Puneeth Kerehalli, who was recently arrested by the Bannerghatta police on the accusations of trespassing into the homes of migrant workers and threatening them while demanding personal identity and property-related documents.

A case has been registered against Kerehalli at the Soladevanahalli police station, in which Nagendra has also been named as an accused. The police had been searching for Nagendra for the past few days, a senior officer from the Central Division said.

(*If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.*)



A screenshot of the auroral activity captured by the all-sky camera at Hanle, Ladakh, by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Auroral activity captured at Hanle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Auroral activity was captured by the all-sky camera at the Indian Astronomical Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh, on the nights of January 19 and 20. This is the sixth time during the current solar cycle that the intense red coloured auroral activity was captured.

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), which operates the observatory, said that the aurora seen at Hanle was owing to a strong geomagnetic storm which began at approximately 3.30 a.m. on January 20. "The storm reached its maximum intensity at 8.30 p.m. on January 20, with a peak disturbance of -218 nano Tesla," it said.

Interaction with CME

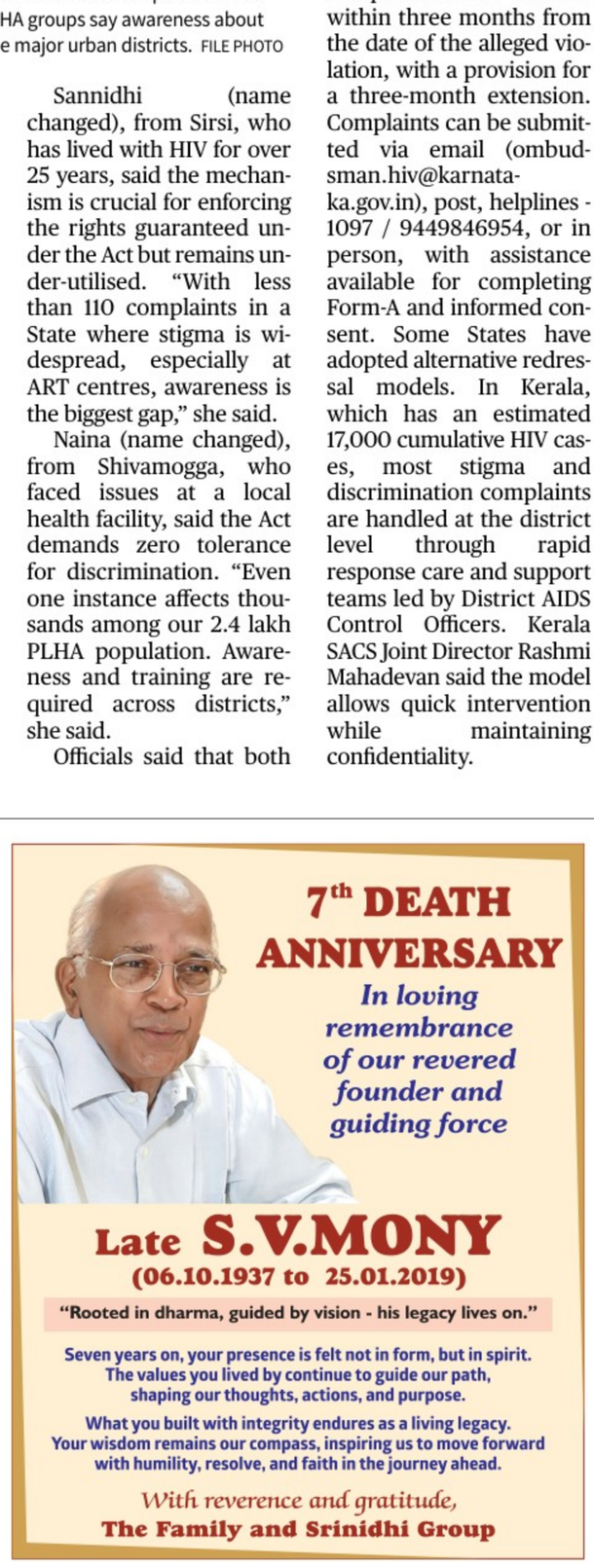
According to NASA's space-based remote-sensing observations, the storm resulted from the interaction of a coronal mass ejection (CME) that was launched from the sun around 1.30 p.m. on January 18.

The CME originated from Active Region 14341 near the centre of the solar disk and was expelled at a speed of around 1,400 km/s. It was associated with an X1.9 solar flare and accompanied by solar energetic particles. In terms of space-weather severity, the event is classified as a G4-level geomagnetic storm with an S4 radiation level.

"During the ongoing 25th solar cycle, only six geomagnetic storms with intensities exceeding -200 nT have been recorded, which have the potential to cause low latitudinal arorae. A coronal hole was observed over a large area surrounding the active region, which may have facilitated the CME's rapid propagation towards earth within approximately 28 hours," said P. Vemareddy, a solar astrophysicist at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

IIA said that CMEs are large expulsions of billions of tonnes of plasma and its associated magnetic fields from the sun into the interplanetary space.

"Extreme geomagnetic storms have the potential to harm space-technology dependent human life on earth, such as disrupting radio communication, GPS signals, etc. Predicting these storms is an important area of scientific research at IIA," IIA said.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VANNIYAR, 30 Ayilyam, Employed in Bank, Leagally Divorced, No Issues. Groom needed from Tanjore, Kumbakonam or Chennai area only. 9840961251

DOCTOR

MUSLIM GIRL MBBS, 166/26, doing PG (Surgery), Father Rtd. Dist. Officer, Mother Rtd. Deputy Director (Higher Secondary Education), reputed family Kollam, Kerala. 9995838247

RC NAIDU Girl, 30/165cm, Fair good looking, MDS Practicing Dentist. Only daughter upper middle class family. Parents pensioners, well settled in Anna Nagar, Chennai. Owning flat. Seeking well qualified doctor groom up to 34 years, preferably Chennai settled from good family background. Ct: 9382164353.

36 Doctor MD inter - caste Hindu-Christian Caste No Bar. Seeks Doctor UG / PG or other professional. Contact: 90925 53399

SEEKS BRIDE groom, aged 41-46, ht above 173 cms(PG Drs, High profile businessman or Professionally well settled) for Kerala fair & beautiful lady Dr 41yrs, Ezhava, Superspecialised, divorced having one daughter living together. Suitable alliances are solcited from Hindu family, caste no bar. Contact: 8075341214

MBBS MD Dr Marathi Brahmin 37/ 165cm divorced issueless girl from Indore looking for educated upper caste issueless groom. Contact 9981809490

HINDU, CHENNAI Based Bride, CNB, 25 years MBBS, Pursuing (MS) ENT, Seeks Doctor Groom . Ct: 9677199925

GROOM WANTED
Mudaliyar / MBBS, MRCS 29 yrs old Girl currently working in UK.
Seeking suitable DOCTOR BOY, either in UK or willing to move to UK.
Girl's parents are doctors.
contact:
94891-68862
CNB

Fair, Cultured, Good Looking, Slim, Doctor Girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Chennai based doctor family Father Keralite Nair Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for Doctor groom or Engineer from respectable family.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

Bride doing MSOG 3rd year, seeks Bride Groom PG MD or MS OR MCH. Contact: 9443331986.

HINDU NADAR Girl 33yrs, MBBS, M.S Ophthamology Vitreo - Retina Surgeon Doctor only. 9840038499/ 9487928218

ENGINEER

Mudaliar / Vanniar 31Y/165cm Doctor MBBS, fellowship in Diabetology seeks Engineer Grooms. Ph: 94444 54188

MALAYALAM

CHENNAI SETTLED Malayalee Catholic parents seek suitable alliance for their daughter 29/158cm B.Tech., MS., working in Europe. Contact: 9444072065

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

MALAYALAM

ALLIANCE FROM Malayalee unmarried allopathy Doctor groom for unmarried Hindu spinster69 looks young 9495621351

EZHUTHACHAN GIRL from Ottapalam 30, Ph.D Molecular Biology from prestigious US university, studied & worked in US, now moved to India seeks well educated, professionally established groom (30–35) settled in India & supportive of her career. Girls Parents Respectable, well educated, progressive ,worked abroad as NRIs, now settled in Palakkad, Kerala. Send biodata & photograph via WhatsApp to 7907133197/ 9741600790.

✔ **HINDU NAIR Girl, Vilakkithala–27yrs, B.Com, CMA, 168cms, Star: Aswathy, Native Trichur, Family settled at Trivandrum, Currently at Chennai, Pleasant Appearance, Belong to an upper middle–class family, Parents Rtd Govt Officials, seeking a suitable alliance from respectable families, Ct: 9444628290, Email: surendramadav90@gmail.com**

NRI

GROOM WANTED - Nair girl, 51, M.Sc, never married, US Citizen, well employed Chicago. US residents only, Caste No Bar. Contact : 9895824803

✔ **41 Years/RC** / Tamil/ US Scientist seek US Single Groom Contact: 9884079338.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39 /162cm, working with UN, well–settled family. Well–educated NRI groom preferred. Contact: 9650638095/ 9444852650

CHRISTIAN, Coimbatore - 30 Yrs/ 163cm, M.S., Business, Well settled - Rich and Affluent, Wanted Christian Groom. CT: 9488184227

CHRISTIAN, 26, born-again, rich affluent, ACCA, NRI, 30 crores. PH: 8138900312

SC CHRISTIAN 25/B.E.(CSE) Sr. Software Engr. (MNC) 75,000p.m. Seeks Bridegroom Ph:9444993417 Wh:7397674481

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM Girl 38, Engineer, slim, seeks qualified, employed, unmarried Tamil Groom. 9444235779**

Muslim (kula) 31/163, PhD, NRI Abu Dhab seeks groom Professional and religious (no shirk and bidah) 9500146962/ safanet@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN CSI , Very Fair , Beautiful, MS Arch , 30 y. Alliance invited from Fair, Handsome, Height min 5Ft and 9 Inches ,Well settled , Good Family Background. Ct: 9884067923

RC, CHRISTIAN, MBBS MD (Anaesthesiology), Reputed School, College, 27 yrs, Fair, God Fearing, Educated Family, in Chennai, Seeks Doctors. WhatsApp Profile – 7550065082 Mail ID: mikdm14@gmail.com

ARCHITECT FAIR Girl, 29 years, well settled and doing free-lancing, Mudaliar, residing in White Town, Puducherry, seeks for a good looking bride groom from decent family, well settled background, age between 30 to 32 years, Salary : 15 LPA & above, must be Roman Catholic in Mudaliar / any forward caste. Cell : 9842320716

CHRISTIAN NADAR 165cm / 28 yrs Advocate in Chennai, also pursuing CA Prefer Doctor. Contact– 9444944609

CHRISTIAN, 26, UK, Medical, 50 lakhs, VVIP. PH: 8137001255

MUSLIM, 28, Private, NRI, 35 lakhs. PH: 8138900312

SAMBAVAR, 29/165, M.Arch (Landscape), wheatish, Consultant Architect, affluent, Class 1 Contractor in PWD, seeks suitable teetotaler bridegroom from good family background, Contact: 99948 93631, 94443 27412

SC (AD), 27yrs, M.Tech, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 6385293227

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 26yrs, BDS, Elite business family in Chennai. Contact: 9380791999, 9841329471

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu, 35yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite Industrial background in Chennai Caste No Bar. 6385293227

MUDALIAR 25, BE, MBA 160cm Good Looking, Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU,SC(AD), M Tech, 24, Parent (Doctor–Engineer) seeks Doctor/Engineer/employed– Govt/Abroad–Groom with good family value, Ct:9445530460

TAMIL

HINDU SCA 30, B.Sc (CS), second Marriage have a child boy 5years need a clean habits Groom.CT: 9994284675

HINDU, 25, Divorced, Chettiyar, MBA, 20 lakhs. 8137003550

HINDU, 28, Tamil speaking Naidu, Bsc, 30 lakhs. 8138900412

HINDU, 34, NRI, BE, caste no bar, 10 crores. 8137001255

HINDU, 32, VIP, NRI, caste no bar, 30 crores. 7356483111

VANIYAKULA KSHATRIYA / Ayilam/ 26 / 5' / B.Arch/ MS Ireland / Fair / Educated Bride's Parents seek well qualified US/ Europe settled groom with a good family background. Hindu same caste, Mudaliyar,Pillai,Yadava, Mukkulathoor,Chettiar and other equivalent Preferably. Whatsapp: 99403 72423/ +9194447 20315

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 26yrs, MBBS, MS, Very big Industrial background, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 40 / 163cm BE MBA Phd Madurai seeks well Qualified, Employed Groom. Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR, B.Tech M.S, 26 years, 167 cms, and employed in U.S. Fair and beautiful. We seek U.S employed groom (1995 to 1999 born) for our daughter and we are from Chennai. Kindly contact 8105586766 or cgrajkumar@rediffmail.com.

WELL EDUCATED, 37, Divorcee Seeks Compatible Groom. Caste No Bar. Call / WA 9489695984.

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 34/165 Mirugasim Raghu Lagnam, PG (HR, MNC, Hyderabad) Seeks MS, M.Tech Groom 9176780777

DOCTOR MD HINDU NADAR 30 Y bride seeks PQ groom send details to 9976610580

WELL SETTLED Doctor, 40 yrs, Divorcee without child, Hindu, BC seeks compatible professional Groom. CNB. Contact:8056868090

HINDU, 29, Pillai, ME, Private, 50 lakhs.PH: 8138900557

HINDU, 31, Mudaliyar, MBA, royal family. PH: 8138900412

HINDU, 30, UK, caste no bar, MSc, 50 crores. PH: 8137003550

GROOM WANTED for Tamil Iyer girl 39 age. Legal practice abroad. Height 5ft 5 inches, slim, wheatish complexion. Liberal minded. Owns house in Bangalore. Contact: tgram99@gmail.com

SC AD Hindu Bride Age 26/163, BE, MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct 9443643415

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 Bank/IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40LPA Own House. Seeks blw 38yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

HASTHAM 38 Fair MCA Chennai wanted Pillai/Mudaliar Prof qufd working groom 9444136336/ 8220757159

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 34Yrs, Meensrasi, Revathi star, BE, LLB, Advocate. Seeks Groom with Good job, Good family. 9710002879

DOCTOR MD, 38Yrs, fair, slim, divorced, consultant at reputed hospital in Chennai, seek well–settled groom with clean habits Ph: 9445018192

✔ **HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR,** 39 yrs. 172 cm, BE MBA,(UK) employed in MNC bank, Bangalore,Rs.40 lacs pa, seeking a suitable employed groom. CNB. contact 9176689616.

MUDALIAR, 29 yrs, BE, affluent family with moral values at Bengaluru seek suitable groom. 7975421774

HINDU VANNIYAR Girl, 27yrs, 162cm, kettai, BE, Asst Manager Govt Bank seek suitable Grooms.Ct: 9894128789

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 31yrs, B.Tech, Working in Bangalore, Elite business family Contact:6385293227

MUDALIAR, 27/164, Fair, Beautiful, MBBS MS, Urologist, MGM HOSP, 2000000 PA, CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIAR (CNB) 22/V.Fair, Under Graduate, Father Jewellery Business, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom– Business/ Industrialist– 9962530015

MUDALIAR: 26/FAIR & Beautiful, MBBS,MD doing Final year,Chennai, Business Family, Only Daughter, Seeks Groom Doctor/ Business/Eng– 8925019776

HINDU, VISHWAKARMA, 25, ME, 50 lakhs, Canada, VIP. PH: 8138009235

HINDU, 29, Divorced, caste no bar, 50 lakhs, MD, Doctor. PH: 8138900412

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, MA, Ph.d, well educated Elite family. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

NAIDU GIRL 29/168, Thiruvathira, M.Tech, working in Bangalore, seeks suitable alliance from well educated and employed grooms. Basically from Tirunelveli. 9400854480

PILLAI GIRL 29 YRS / 160 / N. VEG / B. TECH - MEM - IVY LEAGUE USA, LIVES IN NEW YORK / H1B, WORKING WITH TOP 5
Seek well educated well placed boy in USA. Caste no bar.
Call +91 9791664050 WhatsApp +91 8925527453

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR, 26 Yrs. 154 cms, B.Com Hons., MBA., Into father's Business, Family is financially well off. Looking for affluent family match, preferably in around Pondicherry.
9443469444

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

ARYA VYSHYA,AGE–44,HT–177CM, work Mumbai–MNC, Good Salary, prop. chennai, 9841551772

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 36, 188cm, well–spoken, from cultured S. Indian family. Seeking well–educated, compatible bride. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

29, HINDU, IITM. HSEE Post graduate, Entrepreneur, well settled, earning min 36 Lac P.A., Seeks well educated, Broad minded/outlook, independent, career–oriented bride (doctor/dentist/CA/architect/ self–employed professional) to settle in Coimbatore. Caste no bar. CT: 8056145620

CHENNAI BUSINESSMAN 54Yr Seeks Companion Educated Unmarried,Divorce, Widow(No Kids) Age 30–40Yr 9444380861

DIVORCEE

IYER DIVORCEE Boy 51yrs S/W Professional with high salary seeks graduate girl from good family without issues caste no bar simple marriage no demands Ct: 9841672014.

DOCTOR

✔ **Agamudayar, Teetotaller,** Doctor pursuing Postgraduation, 28/167cm seeks Doctor Bride of same subcate from respectable Family. Contact: 9843366206.

FINANCE / BANKING

MANAGER, SBI, 32. Seeks independent, broad–minded Tamil or Malayali woman as life partner. People into caste/ religion/ horoscope pl. excuse. Ct: 9789227517 (Whatsapp only).

HINDI

AGARWAL BOY, 29yrs, Bank Job, 36 LPA package, underwent kidney transplant, health now perfectly ok, seek suitable bride. CT: 6230198418

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

YADAV (TAMIL, Chennai) 27 yrs / 185 cm Fair,Good Looking Teetotaller Groom, IAS Officer,Uttar Pradesh Cadre,Well Settled Parents Seek Doctor/CA /Business/Group I Officer Bride from an affluent Family in Yadav Community. Ct. 6374949184, 9360893175

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 29, 170 cms, M.Tech, Businessman. Lives in Pondicherry. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from Business family in similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

VELLALAR, 26, 175 cms, B.Arch. Business class family with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from any similar community in India. Contact: 6366448344

MUKULATHOR, 30, 183 cms, MS. Business class family with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from any similar community in India. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

PILLAI, 25, 168 cms, B.Tech, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated Doctor or Business match in similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 27, 163 cms, BE, Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from working professional background from any location. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 31, 163 cms, M.Arch, Professor. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match from business background from similar community in Chennai only. Contact: 6366448344

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TAMIL

Mudaliar, 29, Fair complexion 154cm, Family oriented Girl from Upper Middle class, Chennai, seeks groom from Govt employed, Software professionals or well settled from Reputed family. Contact: 94449 35026/ 94445 47499.

Sozhia VELLALAR (Pillai) 25/155, Thiruvonam, Environmentalist, fair, Canadian citizen, Seeks same caste Groom from USA/Canada/Middle East. Contact: s26091965@hotmail.com WhatsApp: +965 97121178

Hindu SC (AD) 26yrs, BSc (Maths), Working as Teacher, well educated family background in Chennai. Seeks suitable Bridegroom. Ct: 94442 15959 (Father), 73059 15303 (Mother)

Seeking a Bangalore settled well Educated Groom from a Decent Family for 28 Years 5.3 height B.com MBA (SC) Tamil Girl Working as Sr. Asso Contact: 9886429482

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 25 yrs, BE, MBA, Running own Transport in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

HINDU / NAIDU 91 born Dr. Girl MBBS, MD Simham / Magam seeks MD, MS, MCH boy, any Naidu / any Tamil BC/MBC. Ct Parents: 94446 73311

GAVARA NAIDU, 32, B.Tech (Hons) DLL & AL Star Ashwini, Group II officer Revenue Dept, Only child, upper middle class, Father Ex–CRPF seeks Civil service Group I/ II groom from good family background. 9003450802

KAMMA NAIDU, Chennai, Fair, 23/ 165, B.Com., LL.B (Hons.), seeks suitable Kamma Groom. Ct: 9442636456

GROOM WANTED Kamma Naidu, 28yrs, MBBS, MS, Very Elite business family Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU, 25/162, Fair, Beautiful, MBBS, MD, RAMACHANDRA HOSPITAL, 1200000 PA, CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029

NAIDU Girl 28/160, B.E Civil, working in Software, seeks Groom from Telugu speaking chennai only.Ct: 8925731888

URDU

SMU 1993 Born bride/167 MBBS, MD, Chennai. Seeks Doctor groom from good family. Whatsapp/Ct:9585547701

DIVORCEE

SINCERE WIDOWER 45, 179cm, well–read (IIT alum), successful professional. Seeks compatible bride. Religion/caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

SEEKING A Partner for a Peaceful Next Innings, a 61–year–old retired Engineer who believes that lifes best chapters can happen now. I am a divorcee living a quiet, disciplined life and value mental peace above all else. Looking for a lady (divorcee/widow) to share walks, conversations, and a stress–free life. Ct: 63857 54610.

DOCTOR

MUSLIM BOY MBBS 174/29, J.R., Govt. Medical College, Father Rtd. Dist. Officer, Mother Rtd. Deputy Director (Higher Secondary Edn.), reputed family Kollam, Kerala. 9995838247

33 Doctor MD mutual divorcee intercaste Hindu - Christian Caste No Bar. Seeks Doctor UG / PG or other professional degree willing to live in Trichy city. No expectation. Contact : 98430 75979.

HINDU/ THEVAR , Star– Revathi, Lagnam– Meenam / MBBS from Govt. Medical College, 32,Yrs/ 180 CMS, working with Govt. Railway Hospital at Mumbai, from Metropolitan, Affluent family. Seeks MBBS Bride, Never Married, from THEVAR/ MARAVAR /AGAMUDAIYAR from Respectable, Elite Family.Contact: 9869164779/ 9941824629

URDU

RESPECTABLE MUSLIM family seeks suitable Muslim groom for their daughter, Fair, Slim, attractive, 23 years, 153 cm, B.A., M.S.W., working as HR. Groom 25 – 28 years, Government officer / Bank official / professional, well settled in Chennai. Contact / WhatsApp: 9042310136

SMU 1991 Born/170cms Well–Settled MD Doctor from Chennai. Seeking Alliance from Doctors, Engineers from Well–Settled Family Ct: 9444551651

MALAYALAM

SEEKS ALLIANCE for Bangalore settled kerala hindu boy, MBA,Junior Manager in MNC, 38ys, 175,1st marriage, no demands – Ct–9902678321

VISWAKARMA (C) Boy, 34/170, Pooram, MTech. PhD, IIT Madras, seeks alliance from qualified girls from educated families. Caste no bar. 9495363050, 8089795318

CHENNAI NAIR Boy 40 Avittam Makaram Educated Officer Divorcee. No Demands Malayalee Girls, Divorcee, Widow No Kids 7338974907 Brokers Excuse

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN CSI Tamil 43yrs/174Cm, BE. MBA, Divorcee No Issues MNC Abroad. seeks suitable Bride. 9094677765

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN Male 53 Unmarried Teacher. Seeks Bride. Divorcees,Widowers without issues are also welcome. Apply: vinziisaac@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN, 28, Born again, UK, 10 crores, MS. 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, 28, MS, UK, Fair. 8138901189

CHRISTIAN, 35, MS, Doctor. PH: 8138901189

CHRISTIAN, 29, MBA, 40 lakhs. PH: 8138900316

ALLIANCE INVITED from a God–fearing, educated and outgoing CSI Christian Nadar girl for our son, 26 years old, 178 cm tall, organist at church, grade 8 pianist, CSE– B.Tech & M.Tech from IIT Madras. Currently working at MNC in Chennai with an annual salary of 70 lakhs. Please send biodata, photos, and family information to xolomichael@gmail.com.

TAMIL MUSLIM 32/180 BE, MBA, Software Engineer, MNC Seeks Employed Bride. 9884395198

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 33, Divorced, BE, 50 lakhs. PH: 9072777822

CHRISTIAN, 27, BE, Private, 50 lakhs. PH: 8138900470

HINDU SENGUNTHAR, Age-31 officer KVB, Born in Moola Nakshathra 4th Padham. Seeks Employed / unemployed girl from decent educated family. Contact: 7598227564 / 9445250564

Hindu Nadar 40 yr/180 cm PSU Bank Manager, CBE Divorcee seeks life partner any BC Caste Ct: 9942280831

RICH MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9176491777

HINDU 64 yrs well Settled separated from Family looking for a widow 50 yrs for remarriage. WA 8220822951.

LOOKING FOR a Bride for our Son, 39/180cm, M.Tech,MS Engineer Sweden.Hindu Mudaliar, Uthiradam. 9884187197

RETIRED HIGH Placed Official, divorcee, male, SC AD, 62, looking for suitable alliance from divorced /widows without Children and encumbrances, preferably Graduates and interested in Sports and Games.
Contact in confidence 86100 59503.

HINDU NADAR, 43yrs/180cm, Analyst Programmer in Australia, Divorcee (no Issues) seeks good looking well qualified professional. CNB. Ct: 9902047595

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIAR GROOM 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E, M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 16.2 laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521.

HINDU, 39, any caste, 50 lakhs, widow. 8137003551

HINDU, 30, Nadar, 50 lakhs, MBA. 8138901337

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 27yrs BE, MS working in software 2lac/p/m Elite family Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

THULUVA VELLALA MUDALIYAR, 29 years BE. MBA, Asst. Manager, Federal Bank, Raichur, Karnataka, Subsects No Bar. Seeks Employed (or) Unemployed bride CT: 98450 55046

HINDU NADAR Age 37, Video Editior Pvt Channel Chennai,Salary 40k Rental income 26k Own Hosue in Chennai,Seeks Bride. 9894220700 / 8190900067

HINDU, 32/180, Ph.D, Well Settled, Engineer, Upper Middle class. Working in Canada. Seeks good looking bride. Caste no bar. Ct: 9444087877

SC AD 31/180 cm BE (CSC) Senior IT officer Chennai, Sal: 4-7 lakhs per annum, Rasi: Mesham, Star: Barani (Rahu-Kethu) upper middle class seeks bride. Ph: 94433 53544

ALLIANCE INVITED for our son, aged 29 years, residing in Coimbatore, height 5'2", BE graduate, runs his own industry manufacturing metal parts, Hindu Viswakarma. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family. Caste no bar. Contact number: 7200771144

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 29yrs, B.Tech, MS (US), working in US, Business Family Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

VAANIYARCHETTY –39 visagam /176/ MS (Sweden) working Sweden 70 L.PA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI), Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ Ph.D/ Prof. Bride CNB. Cont:9840429799

MUDALIAR 32/175 Veg Dip Siddha, Trustee Siddhar Trust Perambalur seeks Spiritual Bride Geetham 9884858014

BC EMPLOYED/SETTLED Girl for 35 year BE MBA Govt 1 Lac PM Chennai 9444925350/9884172821

HINDU, 32, Chettiyar, Raku/Ketu, ME, 20 crores. PH: 8137003550

HINDU, 34, Pillai, Nurse, NRI,50 lakhs. PH: 7356483111

MUDALIAR/PILLAI Divorcee (No Kids) BE MBA 32/163 Group 1 Officer working in Coimbatore, Preferably from same community seeking Graduate Girl Divorcee / First Marriage. CT: 94868-53954.

MUDALIAR, 38/172.5, BE, 70 LPA, working as a Software consultant in Sweden. Warmly welcoming a bride from humble, cultured & educated family. Ph: 9994773572/ 9901344995

SENGUNTHAR DOCTOR, 36/183 Divorced no issues, broad minded groom from affluent family seeks suitable professional bride b/w age 29-32 & Ht: 160-170cm, slim Divorced / never married. Caste no bar. Send BHP to palanikumarraaja@gmail.com

SAIVA Pillai CNB M.Sc MBA 4Lakh/ month Company owner 20 crores property only son 173 cm Visagam 47yrs unmarried. W.app-9841553677

Senguntha Mudhaliar Kettai 31/175 IFS(Forest) Officer,well educated family seeks Doctor Bride.CT: 9443428948

TAMIL

WANTED GOOD looking educated bride for IIT educated 33yrs old Tamil family boy working in Bangalore. Ct: +91 98402 54805

KALLAR 39, Star Kettai, BE (ECE) Dy Manager–Telecom Located at Trichy & Madurai, Seeks Suitable Bride Caste No Bar Ct:9443923062/ 9514349990

HINDU, SC, Tamil, 33, 170, MS, SWE, MNC in USA, H1B, I140, $230K, affluent family in Chennai seeks well educated south Indian girl in abroad / India.Caste no bar.Ct 9445442020

CNB BDS Surgeon, MBA (UK) Hospital Mgmt & Health Care, working as CEO in Bangalore Hospital, Divorcee no issues 1981 seeks Rich or PQ Dr/ Engr/ IT bride. V.J.Naidu 9886782390 or 9962246305

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ 30 L p.a Seeks Any Vegetarian, Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

42Y, HANDSOME,FAIR,176CM, non–smoker & teetotaler, Divorced, Legal consultant&Entreprenuer, well settled in Chennai Ph: 9840234030

AGAMUDAIYAR 41 MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC shunmugavalli@gmail.com Mob – 9445612997

MUDALIAR M.COM 48 1st Marriage 20 Laks PA. Own House Chennai. Seeks Mudaliar 1st Marriage Girl 9444001582

HINDU, VANNIAR (Gounder) 39yrs, 175cm, Malaysia, Logistics Professionals Salary 200000 per Month Seek Suitable Profile 28–38yrs From Good Family Backgrounds. No Financial Expectations & Caste No Issue. Must Be Relocate Malaysia After Marriage. Parents can Relocate also.Orphan Profiles also will be Consider. Phone – +60176260092

NADAR, RICH 1980, only son B.A, LLB., High Court seeks Dr/ Govt Employed Bride, CNB. Ct: 94888 88819

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

29YR DOCTOR MD Anesthesia Living in Chennai seeking SC Bride MD/MS Parents 8148000760/9445244717

NADAR, 37, Divorcee no kids M.E, Ph D. Prof. Engg. College, Chennai. 1.2L p/m. Seeks suitable Bride Caste, Religion no bar. Ct: 9443269548

MBA, DOB:11/1979 Viruchigam, Kettai, 1St Marriage, Chennai Own House.Wanted suitable Bride.Ct: 9383002003

SEEKING INDEPENDENT Divorced (No Child) / Unmarried Bride for 45 Yrs, Well Settled Unmarried Groom, Own House in T.Nagar, Professional, Caste No Bar, Ct: 89250–54774

OUR SON, 29 years Electrical Engineer. Educated bride from a good, pet–friendly family preferred. Veterinary/animal–care professionals welcome. Apply: geethanarayanan72@gmail.com. WhatsApp 7358773357.

HINDU NADAR, 29, B.Com, MBA., Business Seeks Educated Bride. Contact: 9444864621 Chennai

REMARRIAGE CHETTIYAR Kannada Devangar Chennai Age:29 Own Company Upper Middle Class Ct:9788663074

MUDALIAR, 28/185, Handsome, MBBS MD, Sr Radiologist, APOLLO HOSP, 3500000 PA, CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029

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HINDU, 28, Fair and handsome, UK, 10 crores. PH: 9048444858

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Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

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HINDU, 44, NRI, 20 crores, VIP. PH: 8138901294

30, 188 cm, Fair MBA M Sc., Dublin (Ireland) Working Professional seeks Educated Girl willing to relocate in Dublin. Caste no bar Ph: 7708957779 nethajid@yahoo.com

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For BJP, it is RSS and party first: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of indulging in divisive politics over caste and religion without aiding any development, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday appealed to people not to vote for the BJP in any of the forthcoming elections as that would "lead to slavery".

Addressing a gathering at the distribution of 42,345 houses of the Karnataka Slum Development Board under the PMAY in Hubballi on Saturday, Mr. Kharge alleged that in the last 10 years, the BJP had given nothing to the people and had not even fulfilled its promises.

"Nation first is a slogan used by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP only during elections. During the rest of the days, it is RSS first and BJP first for the saffron party, and the nation and the Constitution come later. But for the Congress it is always nation first," he said.

"Mr. Modi had talked of bringing back black money, providing 2 crore jobs, and even today he only talks and keeps on abusing Jawaharlal Nehru and other Congress leaders, who actually implemented a series of development works," he said.

Mr. Kharge recalled how the "people's housing scheme", a scheme for the poor took birth during the tenure of D. Devaraj Urs and Minister Basavalingappa and how the Congress government had continued working for the poor. He told Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan to add more cities and villages under the housing project.

Mr. Kharge lambasted the Union government for troubling States ruled by non-BJP governments through Governors and by not providing requisite grants. "Now they brought the VB G-RAM-G Act instead of MGNREGA," he said. "We will fight against it and will not stop until it is withdrawn like the three farm laws," he said.

Listing out the welfare measures, guarantee schemes and allocations to various departments, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also lambasted the BJP leaders for projecting the government as bankrupt.

"If the government was really bankrupt, then how come all these development works are getting completed?" he sought to know.

Party workers want me to be CM, but I only wish to set things right in State, says HDK

JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy says party's aim is to make his father Chief Minister after the 2028 polls

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

H.D. Deve Gowda, H.D. Revanna, and H.D. Kumaraswamy at the JD(S) party rally in Hassan on Saturday. PRAKASH HASSAN

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel and Janata Dal (Secular) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday said that many party workers wanted him to become the Chief Minister after the 2028 elections, but his goal was "not to become the Chief Minister, but to set things right in the State".

He was addressing a party rally, held for the first time in Hassan after the Lok Sabha polls in 2024.

It witnessed a huge turnout and party leaders, including former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, appealed to the people to "remove the corrupt Congress government whenever the next elections are held."

Speaking earlier, JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy had said that the party's aim was to make his father the Chief Minister after the 2028 polls. The party organised the rally in Hassan, a bastion of the party, to mark its silver jubilee celebrations. The party leaders repeatedly called it a meeting to strengthen the organisation ahead of the local body elections and also an event in response to two rallies that the Congress held in Hassan after coming to power in 2023.

'Brokers and looters'

Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that the State government was being ruled by "brokers and looters" and urged the people to remove the Congress government.

"Many JD(S) leaders want me to become the Chief Minister in 2028. However, my goal is to set the things right in the State. I have no wish to make money," he stated.

Appeal to Muslims

Referring to the eviction of people from Thanisandra and Kogilu Mane in Bengaluru, Mr. Kumaraswamy called upon Muslims not to have faith in the Congress government. "The ruling government evicted children, pregnant women from their places in the cold. Muslims need to understand this better," he said.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Gowda stated that the rally was organised to send a message to the nation, and particularly the political opponents, that the JD(S) was strong under the leadership of Mr. Kumaraswamy.

"The Congress held two rallies in Hassan and its leaders commented that they would finish the JD(S) in the district. We have organised the rally to show our strength," he stated.

Now in NDA

Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 2018 statement that the JD(S) was the B-team of the BJP, Mr. Gowda maintained, "Now we are partner of the BJP in the NDA and Mr. Kumaraswamy is a Union Minister."

The former Prime Minister said he wished to inaugurate an Indian Institute of Technology and Hassan Airport in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all MPs of the JD(S) and the BJP.

Deve Gowda expresses ire over reward to SIT

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) national president H.D. Deve Gowda came down heavily on the State government for announcing a reward for the officers of the Special Investigation Team that probed cases filed against his grandson and former MP for Hassan Prajwal Revanna, which led to his conviction.

Speaking at the JD(S) rally in Hassan on Saturday, an emotionally-charged Mr. Deve Gowda said he had faith in the Almighty and that "time would tell."

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, referring to the same issue, said that he had never heard of such a high reward except for those who worked as part of the Special Task Force formed to nab bandit Veerappan.

Super Jet 100 regional aircraft to make debut at Wings India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will showcase its civil portfolio, including the Super Jet (SJ) 100 regional aircraft, at Wings India 2026, scheduled to be held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, from January 28 to 31.

HAL said that the centrepiece of its participation will be the H-228 commuter aircraft, the Dhruv New Generation (NG) helicopter, and the Super Jet 100 regional aircraft, which will make its formal debut during the show.

"HAL is steadily expanding its civil aviation footprint, and the showcase of Dhruv NG, H-228, and the SJ-100 trinity at Wings India reflects our focused thrust in strengthening regional connectivity, civil utility operations, and future-ready aircraft programmes," D.K. Sunil, CMD, HAL, said.

HAL will be present at Hall A, stall No. 27, during the show.

The pavilion will display scaled models of the Dhruv NG, H 228, H 228 Amphibian, SJ 100, LUH Civil, Line Replaceable Units.

Name gram panchayat offices after Mahatma Gandhi, says Ugrappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

V.S. Ugrappa

Strongly criticising the Narendra Modi-led Union government for introducing the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G Ram G) Act by repealing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), senior Congress leader V.S. Ugrappa has called on the State government to name all 6,000 gram panchayat offices after Mahatma Gandhi.

In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the former MP alleged that the Centre had disrespected the father of the nation by scrapping the employment guarantee law that bore his name. He contended that instead of strengthening grassroots democracy through greater devolution of powers and funds to rural local bodies, the Centre had weakened gram panchayats by curtailing their authority – a move he said runs counter to the principles of decentralisation, federalism and the Constitution.

Mr. Ugrappa proposed that naming gram panchayat offices across the State after Gandhiji would serve as a meaningful tribute to him.

Referring to Gandhiji's vision of *Gram Swaraj*, he alleged that the new scheme undermines the panchayat system by stripping rural local bodies of their powers to identify works and allocate employment under the revised legislation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date:25/01/2026

This is to inform the general public that my client Sri. **DHANYAKUMAR NERLIGE GOWDRA**, **S/o Sri N.G.Jayappa,** aged about 54 years, residing at No.157, 4th Main, 3rd Stage, 3rd Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079, who is the present owner of below mentioned property, and he was having an **Original Gift Deed** dated **10.08.2016**, bearing Document No. **JAY-1-03822-2016-17**, registered as Book-1 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Jayanagar, Bengaluru in respect of **Site No.1092, situated on the Sir M Visveshwaraya Layout Extension 2nd Block, Bangalore, having Khata No.UA KAI/1092/SVMCII /04 issued by BDA, Measuring East to West 12.00 mtrs, North to South 18.00 mtrs, totally measuring 216.00 sq.meters** and the aforesaid original document have been lost/misplaced while shifting of the residence of the Basaveshwarnagar and he has made best efforts in tracing the same, but efforts were in vain further in this regarding he lodged police complaint No.1980174/2025, dated: 28-12-2025, any one found the aforesaid original document kindly contact within **7 days** from the date of this publication of the office address given below.

BASAVEGOWDA D.J (ADVOCATE)
No.11, T-33 & 34, V.M.C. Complex,
3 Floor, 10 Cross, Cubbon Pete,
BANGALORE-560002.
Ph. No.9964599401

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Dr. K.N.Sivaraman PhD
Director State Institute of English Retd., S/o.Rao Saheb K.V.Nilkantham
Passed away peacefully on 17-01-2026.
Survived by his Wife, Son, Daughter-in-law, Grandchildren, Family, Friends and Students scattered across generations.
Contact: Srijit - 98401 62496

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

DEATH

Smt. Radha Ramakrishnan
27.06.1939 - 23.01.2026

With profound sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother.
A woman of quiet strength and unwavering love, she was the heart of our family. Her presence will be deeply missed by her family & friends.

Forever loved and remembered

Ramesh & Usha Ramakrishnan
Ranjana Ramakrishnan &
Sunil Rallan
Rashmi & Raghu Raman

Grandchildren:
Shweta & Abhishek Prasad
Tanvi, Roudradev & Arun

Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE — THE HINDU

GENERAL

TENDERS

NIT FOR NANDI IDOL

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for supply of sacred **Nandi Idol (Divine Bull)** measuring 18' x 8' x 14' with Peetam/base size 18' x 8' x 2' made of good quality monolithic Black granite Rock stone based on traditional temple sculpture on Shilp shastra / Agama principles, iconographic fine detailing and durable finish, as per temple standards, surface finishing and polishing complete in all respect for installation in our **Viraat Ramayan Temple, Kaithwalia, East Champaran, Bihar.** For details please visit our website: **mahavirmandirpatna.org** Vendors interested to conduct survey of the location and Nandi pedestal before sending the quotation may visit Viraat Ramayan Temple on any working day with prior intimation. Interested parties may submit their lowest quotation indicating the rock selected, cost of stone and sculpting charges, delivery schedule, within 21 days from the date of publication of the advertisement, in sealed cover addressed to **The Temple Superintendent, Shri Mahavir Sthan Nyas Samiti, Mahavir Mandir, Near Patna Junction Railway Station, Patna-800001, Bihar.**
Temple Superintendent

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-4, TN.
Prequalification of Turnkey Contractors

CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus proposes to develop **Housing Blocks (Type BCD, LIQ/MIQ) and a Community Hall with a total built-up area of 1,28,961 sq.ft.(G+4), located at 190 Ramapuram, 189 Kothapalli Post, Gudipala Mandal, Chittoor- 517132, Andhra Pradesh.**

Interested contractors may obtain prequalification documents from **The Engineering Planning Office, Christian Medical College Vellore, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore – 632004,Tamil Nadu** from **25th January 2026** onwards in person or download from the web site **www.cmch-vellore.edu→Tender Notice→ Download CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus Teaching Hospital - PQ Housing.**

Completed applications supported by prescribed documents should be submitted to **The General Superintendent, Christian Medical College Vellore, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-632004, Tamil Nadu, on or before 09th February 2026.**

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-4, TN.
Prequalification of Contractors

CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus seeks experienced and reputed **Contractors for the complete facade works** for the 400-bedded Teaching Hospital (7,32,904 sq.ft.) under construction located at **190 Ramapuram, 189 Kothapalli Post, Gudipala Mandal, Chittoor-517132, Andhra Pradesh.**

Interested contractors may obtain prequalification documents from **The Engineering Planning Office, Christian Medical College Vellore, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore – 632004,Tamil Nadu** from **25th January 2026** onwards in person or download from the web site **www.cmch-vellore.edu→Tender Notice→ Download CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus Teaching Hospital - PQ Facade.**

Completed applications supported by prescribed documents should be submitted to **The General Superintendent, Christian Medical College Vellore, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-632004, Tamil Nadu, on or before 09th February 2026.**

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-4, TN.
Prequalification of Interior Contractors

CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus seeks experienced and reputed **Interior Contractors for the Interior Finishing & Fit-out works of its 400-bedded Teaching Hospital (7,32,904 sq.ft.) under construction located at 190 Ramapuram, 189 Kothapalli Post, Gudipala Mandal, Chittoor- 517132, Andhra Pradesh.**

Interested contractors may obtain prequalification documents from **The Engineering Planning Office, Christian Medical College Vellore, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore – 632004, Tamil Nadu** from **25th January 2026** onwards in person or download from the web site **www.cmch-vellore.edu→Tender Notice→Download CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus Teaching Hospital - PQ Interiors.**

Completed applications supported by prescribed documents should be submitted to **The General Superintendent, Christian Medical College Vellore, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-632004, Tamil Nadu, on or before 09th February 2026.**

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INBRIEF

Fire engulfs furniture store in Hyderabad, no casualties

Tension prevailed in the Nampally Railway Station area in Hyderabad, Telangana, after fire broke out at a furniture store on Saturday. No casualties or injuries were reported as of 3:30 p.m. According to Fire department officials, at least 10 fire tenders were rushed to the spot following a distress call at 1:42 p.m. Amid the chaos, the family of a watchman, including his two children and mother, was allegedly trapped inside the building.

A.P. govt. will clean 11.2 million tonnes of legacy waste: Naidu

In a renewed push to the Swarnandhra-Swachhandhra initiative, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday inaugurated development projects worth ₹573 crore, including 110 Integrated Solid Waste Management units set up at a cost of ₹510 crore. "The government has set a target of removing 11.2 million tonnes of legacy waste across Andhra Pradesh," Mr. Naidu said while addressing a public meeting in Chittoor.

About 150 carcasses of Olive Ridleys washed ashore in A.P.

As many as 150 dead Olive Ridley turtles were found on the beaches of Dokulapadu in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, in the last few days. As per locals, the use of squid nets for fishing and plastic pollution in the sea are leading to the death of the turtles. December and January are the nesting season for Olive Ridleys, and the Forest Department takes a series of measures to protect the hatchlings. Local organisation Sneha Kalamandali buried the turtles near the sea.

'Union govt. mulls ₹1 lakh-cr. high-speed rail line in Kerala'

Thiruvananthapuram-Kannur travel time to come down to 3 hours and 15 minutes, says technocrat Sreedharan; Centre is expected to announce the project, which he will lead, in two weeks, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

A high-speed rail corridor linking Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur in Kerala is under the active consideration of the Centre, technocrat and former Konkan Railway chairman E. Sreedharan said. The project, estimated to cost ₹1 lakh crore, is proposed to be completed in five years.

Mr. Sreedharan said the Centre was expected to announce the project in two weeks and added that he would lead its execution. He recently held discussions with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will be the implementing agency, he said.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and E. Sreedharan during a recent discussion held in New Delhi. PTI

Alternative to K-Rail

The proposed high-speed rail line will serve as an alternative to the State government's SilverLine (K-Rail) project promoted by the Left Democratic Front (LDF). Mr. Sreedharan said that land acquisition would not pose a major challenge for the project.

According to him, trains on the corridor would operate at speeds of up to 200 kmph. Travel time from Thiruvananthapuram to Kochi would be about one hour and 20 minutes, while Kozhikode could be reached in two-and-a-half hours and Kannur in three hours and 15 minutes.

The line would have 22 stations and would require only one-third of the land needed for the SilverLine project. Nearly 70% of the corridor would be elevated, with another 20% running underground. The rail line would also connect the airports at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Karipur, and Kannur.

'I have not violated my party's position'

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has reiterated that he has not violated any of his party's positions in Parliament.

"If you look at any of my public statements on record, I have at no stage violated any of the party's positions in Parliament," he said at the Kerala Literature Festival in Kozhikode on Saturday.

"The only issue on which there has been a public disagreement on principle has been about Operation Sindoor, where I did take a very strong stand."

Shashi Tharoor

Mr. Tharoor, who had reportedly been upset that he had not been adequately acknowledged by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the recent Maha Panchayat programme in Kochi, recalled what he wrote in his newspaper column about Operation Sindoor.

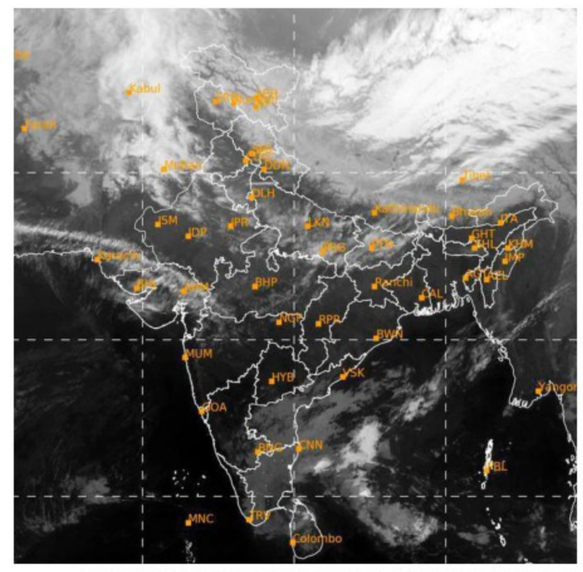
"I remain unapologetic because after Pahalgam happened, I, as an observer and commentator, had written in a column – the title I gave was 'After Pahalgam,' but they changed it to 'Hit Hard, Hit Smart' – that this cannot go unpunished and we have to hit them," he said.

"..We do not want to be dragged into a prolonged conflict with Pakistan.., so we can't take a step that would turn India into a war zone. Therefore hit only a finite number of them terrorist targets, and signal very clearly that we Indians are only attacking terrorism, we are not attacking Pakistan. You can imagine my astonishment and joy, 10 days later, when the Government in India did exactly what I recommended."

"When the government sent me, along with many other leaders of many other parties, for some reason my party did not like my doing this, apparently. You can speak to them and find out why, but as I said publicly in response, and I will repeat again today, Jawaharlal Nehru's very famous question, who lives if India dies?" he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. Dense fog likely at isolated places over west Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim and Sub Himalayan West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.1	11.8	Kozhikode	—	34.0	22.6
Ahmedabad	—	24.4	12.5	Kurnool	—	31.0	19.0
Aizawl	—	29.5	9.6	Lucknow	—	25.1	15.4
Allahabad	—	22.7	12.0	Madurai	—	32.2	22.7
Bengaluru	—	26.3	17.1	Mangaluru	—	32.5	19.9
Bhopal	—	23.1	12.5	Mumbai	—	29.8	16.3
Bhubaneswar	—	30.9	14.5	Mysuru	—	29.6	13.0
Chandigarh	27.1	14.2	5.3	New Delhi	20	18.2	7.6
Chennai	5	27.0	21.9	Patna	—	25.2	13.0
Coimbatore	—	31.6	18.9	Port Blair	—	30.2	26.2
Dehradun	23	21.9	7.6	Puducherry	3.6	23.9	21.7
Gangtok	—	18.0	7.0	Pune	—	30.6	17.3
Goa	—	33.7	19.3	Raipur	—	30.3	15.4
Guwahati	—	28.4	13.2	Ranchi	—	26.1	8.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	16.0	Shillong	—	20.5	7.6
Hyderabad	—	28.3	18.1	Shimla	7	10.6	4.0
Imphal	—	25.2	14.2	Srinagar	16	6.4	-1.4
Jaipur	1	18.8	9.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.2	21.6
Kochi	—	30.8	23.0	Tiruchi	0.4	26.6	22.4
Kohima	—	17.8	7.0	Vijayawada	—	33.0	18.0
Kolkata	—	27.2	12.2	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	18.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.33	106	34	76	103	
Bengaluru	6	21	24	161	151	
Chennai	.10	10	24	92	69	
Delhi	9	157	40	212	193	
Hyderabad	6	15	58	93	118	
Kolkata	8	132	53	253	185	
Lucknow	.10	.40	36	215	136	
Mumbai	.16	.85	44	77	104	
Pune	—	.44	54	248	183	
Visakhapatnam	.2	.23	27	158	130	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Angul, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 309 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/RE/2025-26/IFT No.126/5609 Date: 23-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION - (2nd Call)
(Two Cover System) - (Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tenders is invited in duplicate from eligible Tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of **Renovation works of Mechanical Engineering Department Building at UBDT, College of Engineering, Davangere. Amounting to Rs. 1,40,17,570/- (Excluding GST) (2nd Call).** The tenderers, who have executed similar nature of single work shall only apply for this work. Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 23-01-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/1687/Adverto/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Health and Family Welfare
OFFICE OF THE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VIJAYANAGAR DIST
E-mail: dhovijayanagara21@gmail.com
Telephone: 08394-227040

No: DHO/Tender Notification/DH/02/2024-25 Date:22-01-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar inviting e-tender through e-procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) portal for supply of Various Medical and allied equipment's required for Anesthesia and O.T Department of New 250 Bedded District Hospital of Hosapete under 2024-25 KKRDB fund(Amount to Put to Tender 170.90 Lakhs) **(INDENT NUMBER:DHFWS/2025-26/IND2111)**

Interested eligible Tenderers can upload the document between **date:23-01-2026 to date: 07-02-2026** time up to 05:00 pm.

For more information tenderers may contact the office phone number :08394-227040 or in persons during office hours.

Sd/-District health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/490

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)

Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/Medical gas Pipeline/Pest Control/06/2025-26 Date:.23-01-2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for The Following:-

(1)"Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Medical Gas Pipeline System (O2, Vacuum, Air & N2O) Along With Other Related Works On Turnkey Basis for Sports Medicine Complex at SGITO"

(2) Pest Control Services

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **24-01-2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through kpp portal is **07-02-2026** upto **4:00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/SI/5201/2025-26 **Sd/- Director Tender Inviting Authority**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,जन स्वा0 अभि0 विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र–द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर
ई–मेल :– ace.region2jaipur@yahoo.com फोन नं0 :–0141–2702700

क्रमांक :–अमुअ/जय/क्षेत्र (द्वितीय)/2025–26/10350-75 दिनांक : 16/01/2026

Notice Inviting Bid 19/2025-26 to 21/2025-26

Online bids are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from eligible enlisted in appropriate class contractors of PHED, Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other departments of Government of Rajasthan and enlisted with CPWD/ Postal/ Telecom/ Railways/ MES/ other State Government/ Central government undertakings/ organization in equivalent class of Rajasthan and meeting prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply after depositing prescribed Earnest Money. **(NIT no 19/2025-26 to 21/2025-26)** is invited from interested bidders. Details of this Bid notification and pre-quailfication criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on website: **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and PHED departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs.194.11Crore**.
UBN:-

S. No	UBN	NIB
1.	PHE2526WSOB10976	PHE2526A5356
2.	PHE2526WSOB10977	PHE2526A5356
3.	PHE2526WLOB10889	PHE2526A5320

DIPR/C/1006/2026 Additional Chief Engineer PHED Jaipur Region-II Jaipur

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560020.

ಸಂ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಹೆಉಆ(ಭೂಸ್ವಾ)/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.01.2026

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ (ಪಿ.ಆರ್ ಆರ್.) ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಆದೇಶ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಕೋರುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಸ್ಥಳ ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಭವನ, ವಸಂತನಗರ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಧಾನ ಮಂಡಲದ ಜಂಟಿ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದೂಡಿದ್ದು, ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಹವಾಲುಗಳ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.02.2026 ಸಮಯ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಸ್ಥಳ ಸಿ.ವಿ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರ, ಯು.ಆರ್. ರಾವ್. ಭವನ ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಜವಹರಲಾಲ್ ನೆಹರು ತಾರಾಲಯ ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, High Grounds ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–01 ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು ಈ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಹಾಜರಾಗುವಂತೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಉಪ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು (ಭೂಸ್ವಾ), ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:47:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20–01–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 (4ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ. (4ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ. (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ. – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 06 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.1 ರಿಂದ 06 ರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ : ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 22–01–2026 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–01–2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30–01–2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–01–2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.30

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/675/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No.: FD 25 JS(B&R) 2025 Date: 21.01.2026

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs. 6000 Crore [Rs. 2000 Crore - Re-issue of 7.32% SGS 2033; Rs. 2000 Crore-5 Years 6 Months Tenure; Rs. 2000 Crore-9 Years 6 Months Tenure]
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : January 27, 2026

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

Sd/- Joint Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources)
Finance Department.

DIPR/DD-C.P/5140/KSMCA/2025-26

M.P. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD. MPPHSCL
(A Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL : https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, Phone : 0755-2578915
Dated : 23.01.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for following item/Services floated on website and Portal from dated 23.01.2026 to **next 30 days:**

1. Online Tender Ref. No. T-820/MPPHSCL/Streak Retinoscope/RC/2026, Dated: 20-01-2026 Uploaded on portal & Website.
2. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Community medicine Department.
3. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Anatomy Department.
4. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Biochemistry Department.
5. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Physiology Department.
6. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Pathology Department.
7. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Microbiology Department.
8. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Pharmacology Department.
9. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Forensic Medicine Department.
10. Tender (s) for Various Equipment & Instrument of Health and Wellness Center.
11. Tender (s) for Various Equipment for Manufacturing Plant of Ayurvedic, Homeopathy and Unani Department.
12. Tender (s) for Various Instrument of Orthopedic implant Set.
13. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Dental Department.
14. Tender (s) for Various Hospital Furniture.
15. Tender (s) for Various Ventilators.
16. Tender (s) for Spirometer.
17. Tender (s) for Hemoglobinometer.
18. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Physiotherapy Department.
19. Tender (s) for Barcode Scanner.
20. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of ENT Department.
21. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Surgery Department.
22. Tender (s) for Various Equipment of Medicine Department.
23. Tender (s) for Various Drugs.
24. Tender (s) for Various Surgical & Consumables.
25. Tender (s) for Various Ayush Consumables.

All Prospective bidders are requested to visit **"www.mptenders.gov.in./https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, https://gem.gov.in"** for further details.
M.P. Madhyam/124144/2026 **CGM (Technical-II)**

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o The Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ),GHMC, Hyderabad
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Tender Notice No. 19/SE(H-CITI)/GHMC/2025-26/ Dated: 23.01.2026

Item No.	Name of Work
1.	Project management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of 4 lane ROB at Bridge No. 202 @ km 161/13-15 near Lingampally Railway Station with 2 lane up Ramp from Gulmohar Junction, GHMC under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC)/Turnkey - Basis"

S.No.	Events:	Date and Time
1.	Start date	27-01-2026 from 04.00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	04-02-2026 at 03.00 PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (Projects), GHMC, 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office Tank Bund, Hyderabad
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	11-02-2026 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Opening of Technical bid	11-02-2026 after 04.00 PM
5.	Opening of Price bid	13-02-2026 after 04.00 PM

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to sesrdppwz@gmail.com. Address of the officer concerned Sri. G. Sree Lakshmi, SE(H-CITI&SNDP) Superintending Engineer (H-CITI&SNDP), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.** **Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (H-CITI & SNDP),GHMC**
DIPR R.O.No.1443-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 24.01.2026

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Health and Family Welfare
OFFICE OF THE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VIJAYANAGAR DIST
E-mail: dhovijayanagara21@gmail.com
Telephone: 08394-227040

No: DHO/Tender Notification/DH/03/2024-25 Date:22-01-2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar inviting short term e-tender for Providing Various Medical and allied equipment's required for Radiology and Laundry Department of New 250 Bedded District Hospital of Hosapete under 2024-25 KKRDB fund through e-procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) portal. (Amount to Put to Tender 218.75 Lakhs) **(INDENT NUMBER:DHFWS/2025-26/IND2107)**

Interested eligible Tenderers can upload the document between date:**23-01-2026 to date:07-02-2026** time up to 05:00 pm.

For more information tenderers may contact the office phone number :08394-227040 or in persons during office hours.

Sd/-District health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/494

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform and notify the General Public that, my client M/s. GENURISE BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED, (Formerly known as M/s MJR Builders Private Limited) A Company incorporated under the Companies Act of 1956, having its Registered Office at: No.444, Grand, 3rd Floor,16th cross, 5th Main, HSR layout, Sector-6, Bangalore 560 102, had lost/misplaced the File, which was containing originals of following documents:

Sl. No.	Document Description	Lost Report No.
1	Sale Deed, dated 21.09.1932executed by Sri.Ramaiah S/o Sri.Mallaiah, in favour of Sri.Muniyappa @ Sri. Munishamappa S/o Sri. Venkatappa, registered as Document No. 434/1932 -1933 of Book-I, Volume No.386, in the office of the Sub -Registrar, Anekal, with respect to land bearing Sy No. 187 measuring 7 Acres 30 Guntas.	2005134/2026
2	Sale Deed, dated : 20.10.1932 executed by Sri.Muniyappa @ Sri.Munishamappa S/o Sri. Venkatappa in favour of Sri.Munishami S/o Sri.Nanjundappa, registered as Document No. 652/1932 -1933 of Book-I, Volume No. 386 at Pages 486 to 491, in the office of the Sub -Registrar, Anekal, with respect to land bearing Sy No. 187 measuring 7 Acres 30 Guntas.	2005151/2026
3	Sale Deed executed by Sri.Krishnappa @ Yele Krishnappa S/o Late.Muniswamappa, Sri. Narayanaswamy, S/o Yele Krishnappa, and Smt. Sarojamma, Sri. Venkatesh, Sri. Muniswamy Gowda, Smt. Manjula, Sri. Shanthraju S/o Sri. Narayanaswamy, Sri. Shanthakumar S/o Sri. Narayanaswamy as confirming party in favour of Sri. Srinivas. K S/o Sri. Krishnappa. B, registered as Document No.2499/2007 -08 of Book-I, stored in CD. No. SRJD11, in the office of the Sub -Registrar, Sarjapura, with respect to Sy.No.187/1 measuring 1 Ac re 12 Guntas.	2005319/2026

The above documents pertain to property bearing Sy.No.187/1 measuring 1 Acres 12 Guntas, converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No. ALN:(A)(AS)SR/322/2011-12, dated: 06.02.2012, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, situated at Thindlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. Hence, it has through its representative Mr. Dileep H M has lodged a Lost Report dated:12.01.2026 vide above Lost Report No's with HSR Police Station, Bengaluru City and obtained computer generated acknowledgments being issued in favour of M/s. GENURISE BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED (Formerly known as M/s MJR Builders Private Limited) The finder/s is/are hereby requested to return the aforesaid original documents if found to the undersigned forthwith and of any person found dealing with the aforesaid original document would be delt in accordance with Law.

ROOPA SHETTY, Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor, 27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore - 560102.
Phone: 9902026199,8088731020; E-mail: info@lexsitus.com

If judges lose credibility, nothing will be left of judiciary: Justice Bhuyan

SC judge says judicial transfers are strictly an internal matter of the judiciary and the Union government can have no say in it; he cites collegium resolution saying transfer decision is being changed over 'reconsideration sought by the government'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> When the Collegium itself records in its minutes that the transfer of a High Court judge is being made at the behest of the Central government, it reveals a striking intrusion of executive influence
>
> **JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN**
> SC judge

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court said on Saturday that judges should not be seen or perceived as bending over backwards to justify denial of liberty or human rights, warning that "if we lose our credibility, nothing will be left of the judiciary".

"Independence of the judiciary is a basic feature of our Constitution. It is non-negotiable. It is for the judiciary, or rather the members of the judiciary, to see to it that its independence is maintained at all costs in order to ensure its continued relevance and legitimacy. If we lose our credibility, nothing will be left of the judiciary. It will be there, judges will be there, courts will be there, it will adjudicate, but its heart and soul will have evaporated," Justice Bhuyan said.

The judge obliquely referred to the Supreme Court Collegium's decision on October 14, 2025, to recommend the transfer of the then Madhya Pradesh High Court judge Justice Atul Sreedharan to the Allahabad High Court instead of the Chhattisgarh High Court on the request of the government.

'Intrusion of executive'

The October 14 resolution of the collegium, headed by the former Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, said the change of mind was triggered by a "reconsideration sought by the government".

"When the collegium itself records in its minutes that the transfer of a High Court judge is being made at the behest of the Central government, it reveals a striking intrusion of executive influence into what is Constitutionally supposed to be an independent process created to ensure that appointments/transfers are immune from executive interference... It reflects a clear admission of the executive influencing collegium decision – the very thing it (the collegium system) sought to prevent. That is very unfortunate," Justice Bhuyan said.

Justice Bhuyan was giving an address at the Pandit G.V. Pandit Memorial Lecture at the ILS Law College, Pune.

He quoted Caroline Kennedy's "we need judges who stand erect against the political whims of the time".

Justice Bhuyan explained that judicial transfers were strictly an internal matter of the judiciary. "By the very nature of things, the Centre can have no say in the transfer and posting of judges. It cannot say that such and such a judge should not or should be transferred, or if transferred, to such and such a High Court," Justice Bhuyan underscored.

The Supreme Court judge further said it would be a "sad day for the judiciary, and by extension, our democracy, if the decision in a case becomes a foregone conclusion the moment a case is listed before a particular judge or a Bench".

Public's faith

The judge said courts did not require a "platoon of the CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force)" to protect it. Judges were enough to stand guard against intrusions into judicial independence. But if public faith in the judiciary, which has neither the strength of the sword nor the purse, is breached, "nothing will be left for the judiciary".

The Supreme Court judge said judges should not let their political and ideological leanings cloud decisions on the Bench.

Constitutional morality

The judge said Constitutional morality was the soul of governance, keeping democratic institutions in check from bulldozing liberty and justice on the strength of numbers, authority, and power.

Justice Bhuyan recalled the first Chief Justice of India, Harilal J. Kania, exhorting at the inaugural session of the Supreme Court that the court must "stand aloof and firm from party politics. It is unconcerned by the changes in the government. It has goodwill and sympathy for all, but is allied to none".

Govt. orders blocking of Manipur killing video over threat to 'public order'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

People block a road during a protest at Kakching Khunou Lamkhai, in Kakching, the village of a man killed on Wednesday. PTI

Social media intermediaries such as YouTube, Meta, and Google have been directed to take down the viral video of the January 21 killing of a 29-year-old man in Manipur's Churachandpur, on the grounds that its circulation was "likely to disturb public order".

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued the blocking order on January 22 after receiving the request from the Union Home Ministry's Nodal Officer. "The order has been issued u/s 69 A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 read with the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009," the MeitY order said.

Mayanglambam Rishikant Singh, a resident of Kakching and a member of the Meitei community, was abducted and shot dead by unidentified assailants, who recorded the killing on camera, when he was visiting his wife from the Kuki-Zo community in Churanchandpur district.

The Manipur administration moved a writ petition before the Manipur High Court, stating that the video was likely to disturb public order. It sought directions to social media platforms – including Meta Platforms Inc, Resident Grievance Officer for YouTube, Google LLC, Google India Digital Services Pvt. Ltd. and WhatsApp Inc. – to take down the video.

Acting on the plea, Judge A. Guneshwar Sharma on January 22 issued notice to the Union government.

"As per the MHA, the URLs flagged to be blocked are from social media platforms and are disseminating videos of the brutal killing of a man in Manipur, with the potential to disturb public order," the court said. The Manipur government requested that notices to social media platforms be served through the Director General (DIT), Cyber Laws & e-Security, MeitY, the regulating authorities.

The court posted the case for hearing on February 18. It also directed the Ministry and the MeitY to submit updated information on or before the next date about the progress of the blocking order.

Eight under treatment for jaundice; borewell found contaminated in Mhow

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Probe on to check govt. water supply pipelines; water and blood samples taken for screening

A borewell has been found to be contaminated in Mhow town of Indore district in Madhya Pradesh, where at least 24 people have fallen ill allegedly due to consumption of contaminated drinking water, officials said on Saturday.

According to the officials, more than 24 people have fallen ill, mostly with jaundice, in the cantonment area of Mhow so far, prompting authorities to undertake preventive measures and launch investigations. The fresh outbreak comes less than a month after at least 15 people died in a diarrhoea outbreak in a locality in Indore city, caused by consumption of contaminated water supplied by the Indore Municipal Corporation.

Indore Divisional Commissioner Sudam Khade told *The Hindu* that while a local borewell had been found to be contaminated, investigation was still on to check the government water supply pipelines.

"The contamination has been reported from two lanes of the cantonment area," he said.

Mr. Khade also said that multiple teams had been deployed in the area to survey the households in the area for symptoms.

Indore Chief Medical and Health Officer Madhav Prasad Hasani said that eight patients, including six children, were currently in the hospital for jaundice. "Four patients have been discharged on Friday and Saturday," he said, adding that water and blood samples had been collected from the area for testing.

Meanwhile, the Indore district administration has set up two temporary hospitals in the area to deal with any potential increase in the number of cases. "Following the emergence of cases of stomach infection in the Patti Bazaar area of Mhow in Indore district, 12 survey teams were deployed on January 23," a statement from the district administration said.

The authorities have also deployed water tankers as an alternate source for drinking water, while asking people to avoid using borewell or pipeline water.

Zubeen Garg's family appeals to PM for special court

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The family of late Assamese singer Zubeen Garg appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for urgent intervention in the investigation into his death in Singapore in September 2025.

In a memorandum on Saturday, Garg's wife, Garima Saikia Garg, along with his sister, Palme Borthakur, and uncle, Manoj Kumar Borthakur, called for the establishment of a special court in India. They also demanded a fast-tracked trial, appointment of the strongest prosecutors, and strict denial of bail for the accused.

The family requested the Centre to ensure active diplomatic and legal engagement with Singapore and asked that "every opportunity lost in the final hours of Zubeen's life be fully examined."

Gauhati HC overturns Arunachal IAS officer's bail in teen suicide case

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The High Court said the trial court had ignored crucial materials and findings.

The Gauhati High Court has revoked a lower court's order granting bail to Arunachal Pradesh IAS officer Talo Potom, who was named in the suicide notes of a 19-year-old in 2025.

Mr. Potom, a Special Secretary (PWD) in the Delhi government, was released within a week of his arrest.

Justice Yarenjungla Longkumer of the High Court's Itanagar Bench ordered on Wednesday that Mr. Potom, facing charges of abetment to suicide, be taken into custody immediately. The Bench criticised the District and Sessions Court for granting bail "without proper application of mind".

The victim's father approached the High Court under Section 483(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita to seek cancellation of bail.

The man lodged a complaint after his son was found dead at his rented accommodation in Papum Pare district on October 23, 2025. In the notes left behind, the deceased accused Mr. Potom and senior engineer Likwang Lowang of sexually exploiting and harassing him over a prolonged period. The notes mentioned that "prolonged humiliation, coercion, and threats" drove him to take the extreme step. The charges against the officials included abetment to suicide, sexual exploitation, mental harassment, and corruption.

Hours after the FIR was filed, Lowang, who worked in the State's Rural Works Department, shot himself.

The High Court said the trial court had ignored crucial materials and recorded findings contrary to established legal principles governing bail.

The Bench noted that while cancellation of bail should not be routine, it is permissible if the order is unjustified, perverse, or ignores material facts.

(For those in distress, counselling is available at TeleMANAS-14416)

Internet back in two Assam districts after shutdown

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Internet services were restored on Saturday in Assam's Kokrajhar and Chirang districts, four days after a shutdown following violent clashes that left two people dead.

The unrest erupted on January 21 after a road accident allegedly led to the death of a Bodo tribal youth. The incident sparked mob violence, resulting in another fatality and widespread disruption. Authorities had suspended Internet access as a precaution to prevent the spread of rumours and maintain law and order.

The State Home Department reviewed the situation before lifting restrictions, with the officials saying the decision was taken after a careful assessment as the security situation gradually stabilised.

Air India cancels flights to New York and Newark

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Air India has cancelled its flights to New York and Newark for January 25 and 26 due to a severe winter storm forecast in the U.S. East Coast.

The airline operates daily flights from Delhi and Mumbai to New York. There are daily flights from Delhi to Newark, while services between Mumbai and Newark are operated on certain days of the week.

Severe winter storm

Air India on Saturday said a severe winter storm with heavy snow is forecast for New York, New Jersey and adjoining areas on the U.S. East Coast from early Sunday morning to Monday, which will have a significant impact on flight operations.

Migrant worker from Beldanga had ended his life in Jharkhand: police

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

People from Beldanga hold a protest in Murshidabad against the alleged lynching of a migrant worker. ANI

Migrant worker Alauddin Sheikh whose unnatural death in Jharkhand last week had triggered violent protests in West Bengal's Beldanga had died of suicide. The post-mortem report of the deceased migrant worker as well as investigation by the Murshidabad police had ruled out murder or foul play.

No murder conspiracy

After the death, a sub-inspector of Murshidabad police went to Palamau, Jharkhand, to inquire into the death of Sheikh. "Statements of 8-10 Bengali migrant labourers residing in the area were also recorded. However, they did not point out any conspiracy of murder," the Murshidabad district police said in a statement on Saturday.

The police also added that it recorded the statement of Kasim Shaikh, who had brought down the body from the ceiling fan in Jharkhand. He also did not make a statement indicating murder or foul play. The post-mortem report also added that the cause of death was "ante-mortem hanging. No antemortem injuries. No abrasions, bruises, fractures or signs of assault".

Violence erupted at Beldanga in Murshidabad district on January 16 over the death of the 30-year-old migrant worker. A large number of people blocked railway tracks and the national highway for hours.

The Trinamool Congress leadership had described the death as targeting of migrant workers in other States.

Meanwhile, the developments over the unnatural death triggered a political war of words, with the BJP saying that the violence in Beldanga was preplanned. "The latest riots in Murshidabad's Beldanga were not spontaneous. They were politically convenient," BJP leader Amit Malviya said in a social media post.

However, suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir said that the administration should have said that the death was suicide on January 16 and not a week later. "In whose interest is the administration failing the people," the MLA said.

The father of the deceased migrant worker refused to accept that his son had died of suicide and claimed that there were injuries on the body.

(For those in distress, counselling is available at TeleMANAS-14416)

Refrain from bringing back Netaji's 'ashes': Forward Bloc

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

G. Devarajan

The All India Forward Bloc has urged the government to refrain from bringing back the "so-called" mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept at the Renkoji Temple in Tokyo, Japan.

Addressing a gathering marking Netaji's 129th birth anniversary in Delhi, G. Devarajan, general secretary of the All India Forward Bloc, also asked the government to formally accept the Mukherjee Commission Report and immediately constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to declassify all remaining files related to Netaji.

The 2005 Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry concluded that Bose did not die in the alleged plane crash in Taihoku, Taiwan, on August 18, 1945. It stated that the ashes at Renkoji Temple in Japan are not his, and that he likely escaped to the Soviet Union.

The demand by Forward Bloc, which was founded by Bose in 1939, comes even as his daughter Anita Bose Pfaff has asked all Indians to support the demand for his remains to be brought to India from Japan. Bose's grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose made a similar appeal to President Draupadi Murmu last month.

The Centre has been in a dilemma over bringing back the ashes due to differences within the family members and political parties as well as by a 1998 Calcutta High Court order that prevents the forced transfer of the remains until the government conclusively satisfies itself regarding the genuineness of the ashes.

At the special event on Friday, Mr. Devarajan said the Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, the last inquiry panel constituted by the Government of India, had categorically concluded that no plane crash occurred at Taihoku Airport in Taiwan on August 18, 1945.

In view of the Commission's findings, the narrative regarding Netaji's ashes being preserved at Renkoji Temple is false, and misleading, he claimed, asserting that any attempt to bring such so-called ashes to India would amount to a grave disrespect to Bose.

SIR may jeopardise democratic participation in Bengal, says Sen

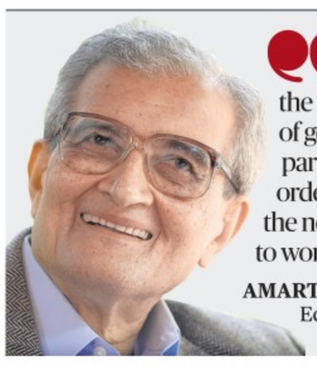
The Nobel laureate stresses that such an exercise must be conducted with care and adequate time, conditions he believes are 'missing' in Bengal's case; he says that underprivileged citizens are most vulnerable to being excluded during the SIR

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has voiced deep unease over the process of special intensive revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal, warning that the exercise is being conducted with "undue haste" and may jeopardise democratic participation, particularly with the Assembly elections approaching in a few months.

The 92-year-old economist, in an interview from Boston, reflected on the democratic value of electoral roll revisions and the circumstances under which they could strengthen voting rights. He stressed that such an exercise must be conducted with care and adequate time, conditions he believed were "missing" in Bengal's case.

"The SIR is being done in a hurry, with inadequate time for people with voting rights to have sufficient opportunity to submit documents to vindicate their entitlement to vote in the coming Assembly elections. This is unjust to the electorate and unfair to Indian democracy," he said.



> The class bias that may show up in the necessary requirement of getting and showing particular documents in order to qualify to enter the new voters' list will tend to work against the indigent
>
> **AMARTYA SEN**
> Economist and Nobel laureate

Drawing from his own experience, Mr. Sen said time pressure was evident even among poll officials.

"Sometimes, the officials of the Election Commission of India themselves seem to lack enough time. When they questioned my right to vote from my home constituency in Santiniketan – from where I have voted earlier, and where my name, address and other details are registered in official records – they questioned me about my deceased mother's age at my date of birth, even though, as a voter herself, my mother's details, like mine, were stored also in their own official records," he said.

"Like many Indian citizens born in rural India, I do not have a birth certificate, and my eligibility to vote required further paperwork to be presented on my behalf," he said. Although the issue was eventually resolved for him, he expressed concern for those who lack access to assistance. He was summoned for a hearing after a "logical discrepancy" was flagged by the EC over an age difference between him and his mother.

"I don't know whether that is true, but the real point is that the EC should not insist on a faulty arrangement and force our proud democracy to commit an unnecessary error, no matter who benefits," he said.

On sections of society that are most vulnerable to being excluded during the SIR, Mr. Sen pointed to the structural disadvantages faced by poorer citizens.

"An obvious answer must be the underprivileged and the poor. The documents needed for being allowed into the new electoral roll are often difficult to obtain for the underdogs of society.

"The class bias that may show up in the necessary requirement of getting and showing particular documents in order to qualify to enter the new voters' list will tend to work against the indigent," Mr. Sen said.

He flagged concerns about the broader climate in which voting rights are exercised. "Another possibility to look into may relate to the difficulties that minority communities sometimes face in getting their rights, including voting rights, respected. Indian Muslims are sometimes relegated to disadvantaged positions through the activism of the recently bolstered Hindutva extremists. Some categories of Hindus also may face discrimination and targeting." Mr. Sen added.

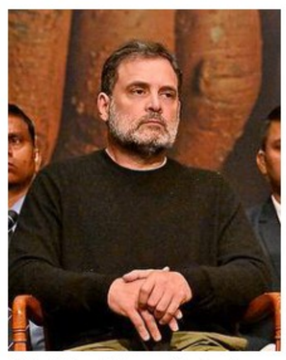
Rahul says poll panel is 'key participant' in conspiracy to undermine democracy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday alleged that the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was being used as a tool for a "well-planned, organised, and strategic vote *chori* [theft]", and charged the Election Commission with becoming a "key participant" in a conspiracy to undermine democracy.

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said the SIR had been transformed from an administrative exercise into a mechanism to subvert the Constitutional principle of "one person, one vote". "Wherever there's SIR, there's vote theft. What is being done in Gujarat in the name of SIR is not any kind of administrative process; it is a well-planned, organised, and strategic vote *chori* [theft]," he said.

Mr. Gandhi alleged that the most "shocking and dangerous" aspect of the exercise was that "thousands upon thousands of objections were filed under the same name", leading to the selective deletion of voters. "Votes were selectively removed from specific communities and booths that support the Congress party. Wherever the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] sees a potential defeat, voters are simply made to disappear from the system," Mr. Gandhi claimed.



Rahul Gandhi says that votes were selectively removed from booths that support Congress.

"This same pattern was seen in Aland [Karnataka]. The same thing happened in Rajura [Maharashtra]. And now the same blueprint is being implemented in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and every State where SIR has been imposed," he said.

'Silent spectator'

"The most serious truth is that the Election Commission is no longer the protector of democracy, but has become a key participant in this conspiracy of vote theft," the Congress leader alleged.

Mr. Gandhi was responding to a post by the Gujarat Congress, which claimed that after he exposed vote manipulation, the BJP had adopted a "next-level model" of election rigging.

The party alleged that millions of objections were suddenly filed after January 15, targeting specific castes, communities and regions, while the EC remained a "silent spectator" and failed to respond to queries from the Opposition.

Congress sees 'assault on judicial independence' in transfer of Sambhal CJM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused the BJP-led government of undermining judicial independence over the transfer of Sambhal Chief Judicial Magistrate Vibhanshu Sudheer, who had ordered the registration of an FIR against police personnel in connection with the Sambhal violence.

The party said the move was not administrative but a "direct assault on judicial independence", and urged the Supreme Court and the Allahabad High Court to take *suo motu* cognisance of the matter.

Addressing a press conference, Pawan Khera, who heads the party's media and publicity department, said the Uttar Pradesh government did not like the fact that the judge had ordered an FIR to be registered against the Circle Officer (CO) who had given orders to open fire when violence had erupted in November 2024 during a survey of the Jama Masjid.

Pawan Khera

"You and I may change our lawyers if we think our case is not being handled properly. The BJP will simply change the judge," Mr. Khera said, citing examples of other such transfers.

'Deeply troubling'

He said timely judicial intervention was essential to protect the rule of law and institutional autonomy, and described the transfer as "arbitrary and deeply troubling".

Mr. Khera also said the initial attempt to appoint a judicial officer, who had ordered the controversial survey of the Jama Masjid that preceded the violence, as Mr. Sudheer's replacement was "even more troubling".

"Although this appointment was reversed within 48 hours following public outrage, the episode lays bare the BJP government's systematic effort to bend judicial administration to its political will, weaponise transfers as instruments of control and erode the independence of the judiciary," he said.

On January 9, Mr. Sudheer had directed that an FIR be registered against police personnel, including then Circle Officer Anuj Chaudhary, in connection with the firing during the Sambhal violence.

"The abrupt transfer of the chief judicial magistrate is not an administrative act; it is a calculated act of institutional vandalism," Mr. Khera said.

He said the move was "clearly punitive" and intended to send a "chilling message" to the judiciary.

"This issue goes far beyond the transfer of an individual judicial officer, it strikes at the core of judicial independence and the constitutional balance between the judiciary and the executive," Mr. Khera said.

RJD MLA raises questions to the leadership over ticket distribution

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A day before the national executive meeting of the party, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MLA Bhai Virendra on Saturday sparked a row by questioning the party leadership over ticket distribution in the recently concluded Bihar Assembly election.

In a speech, a video of which has gone viral on social media, Mr. Virendra said "such results" were inevitable if tickets were distributed to "outsiders" based on "other criteria", while ignoring "deserving and hard-working" party workers. The number of seats the RJD won fell from 75 in the 2020 Assembly election to 25 in the 2025 election.

Addressing a meeting, he asked why Vijay Mandal, the sitting MLA, had been denied ticket from the Dinara Assembly constituency. "If ticket was given only to Yadav [community], what was wrong with Vijay Mandal*ji*. We both became MLAs together. What was Vijay Mandal*ji*'s fault? He should not have been denied ticket. Ticket was given to an outsider on the advice of others," Mr. Virendra said. The RJD fielded Rajesh Yadav, the party's youth president, known to be a dedicated party worker.

The party fielded 143 candidates, the highest in the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance bloc, but notched up its worst performance in recent elections.

EC releases 'logical discrepancies' list following SC order

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The Election Commission on Saturday evening uploaded on its website the names of people on the SIR logical discrepancies list following an order of the Supreme Court, a poll panel official said.

The district electoral officers will now download the list and display it on panchayat bhavans and block offices as directed by the court.

The Supreme Court on January 19 directed the EC to display the names of those on the 'logical discrepancies' list at gram panchayat bhavans, block offices of talukas and ward offices in West Bengal by Saturday.

The court noted that 1.25 crore voters in West Bengal figure on the 'logical discrepancies' list.

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY
(A State University Established by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1985,
Accredited with 'A++' Grade by NAAC (CGPA:3.59) in the Fourth Cycle under Dual Mode Category)
KARAIKUDI - 630 003, TAMIL NADU

Alagappa University Invites applications for Pre-Ph.D. Entrance Exam (Written Test – **Physical Mode only**) to be held on **08.03.2026** in the **University Campus, Karaikudi.**

NOTIFICATION

1. Submission of application in **ONLINE mode** only — **Opening** 27.01.2026 - 10.00 a.m. onwards; **Closing** 18.02.2026 - 05.00 p.m.
2. Date of Examination at University Campus, Karaikudi only. — 08.03.2026 - 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
3. Interview — 08.03.2026 - 2.30 p.m. onwards
4. Application Fee — Rs.1000/-

For further details, visit University Website **www.alagappauniversity.ac.in** or contact : **9489079096.** University reserves the right to change anything mentioned above. **Application cost once paid will not be refunded.

Karaikudi
23.01.2026
DIPR/ 99 /DISPLAY/2026
Prof. A. Senthilrajan
Registrar

APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Dept. Of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112. Tamil Nadu – India.
Phone: 044 – 27472046, 27472113, 27472423
Website: www.niepmd.nic.in. Email: niepmd@gov.in, director@niepmd.tn.nic.in
~ (Re-Accredited by NAAC B+2nd Cycle)~ ~ ISO 9001:2015~

Employment Notice No.01(R)/2026
(Online Application only)

NIEPMD (D) invites online applications on deputation including short term contract basis from the Indian Nationals, who fulfil the prescribed qualification, experience, age and other conditions for filling up the following sanctioned regular post at CRC-Kozhikode under the administrative control of NIEPMD(D), Chennai:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Group / Scale of pay	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Assistant Professor Speech & Hearing	01 (One) (Lien vacancy)	Group-A Rs.67,700/- to Rs.2,08,700/- Level -11 (7th CPC)	On deputation including short term contract basis which will be initially for 01 year or till the lien vacated whichever is earlier

For detailed advertisement, essential/desirable qualifications, age limit, application link **(https://niepmd.nic.in/notice-category/recruitments/)** and the application fee details etc., please visit our website: **www.niepmd.nic.in.** The last date of receipt of online applications and necessary documents is **30 days** from the date of publication in employment news.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

Suvendu visits BJP worker whose house was set on fire

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Three days after the house of a party worker was allegedly set on fire by Trinamool Congress supporters, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday visited the residence of Tapas Barik, at Onda in West Bengal's Bankura's district and promised full support to reconstruct the house.

The thatched house of the BJP worker at Nandanpur village was set on fire Wednesday night allegedly by Trinamool supporters. The miscreants set the house on fire and bolted the gates of the house from outside.

भारी वाहन निर्माणी
आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेडकी इकाई
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

HEAVY VEHICLES FACTORY
UNIT OF ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CIN-U35990TN2021GOI145504

SHORT ADVERTISEMENT FOR
ENGAGEMENT OF JUNIOR TECHNICIANS UNDER FIXED TENURE CONTRACT
(Advertisement No. HVF/RG/FTB/RECT/JTC/2026/01)

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi, Chennai. Heavy Vehicles Factory, a Unit of AVNL invites Applications through OFFLINE MODE from eligible and interest Indian Candidates fulfilling the eligibility requirement for filling up of the following Fixed Tenure Based Posts on CONTRACT BASIS to work in Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, Chennai – 600 054

S.No	NAME OF THE POST	NO OF POSTS	REMUNERATION	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT
1.	Junior Technician (Machinist)	122	Minimum Basic Pay Rs.21,000/- Plus IDA and other Allowances	Engagement on Fixed Tenure Contract Basis
2.	Junior Technician (OMHE)	55		
3.	Junior Technician (Rigger)	25		
4.	Junior Technician (Heat Treatment Operator)	8		
5.	Junior Technician (Fitter Auto Electric)	4		
6.	Junior Technician (Sand & Shot Blaster)	6		

The last date of receipt of application will be 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. For detailed job specification ,scope of work, reporting mechanism, remuneration, qualification, age limit, skill, tenure and procedure for applying for the said post, please visit our websites **(www.ddpdoo.gov.in/www.avnl.co.in)**.
Note:
Any corrigendum /amendment in this advertisement will be published/ uploaded on the websites **(www.ddpdoo.gov.in/www.avnl.co.in)**.

Place: Chennai
Date : 25-01-2026

HR DIVISION, HVF-UNIT OF AVNL
Email: rajendranV.ofb@gov.in
Tele: 044-2684 3486

आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CIN-U35990TN2021GOI14550

ADVT. NO. AVNLCO/HR/2026/02
ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ON FIXED TERM CONTRACT POLICY

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI) (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi (Chennai). AVNL is engaged in the manufacturing of battle tanks (T-72, T-90, MBT Arjun), Infantry Combat Vehicles, Support vehicles (MPV, AERV etc.) and Defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.) for the armed forces and homeland security agencies. It is the current market leader in this segment. It is a new Government Company with Great Future. It offers great work environment and challenging opportunities for the professionals to prove their mettle.

Offline applications are invited from eligible candidates for contractual engagement for the following post:

NAME OF THE POST	NO OF VACANCY	TOTAL CONSOLIDATED REMUNERATION (PER MONTH) ALL INCLUSIVE	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT
Assistant Manager (Company Secretary)	01 [01-UR]	Rs. 40,000/- + IDA	Engagement on Fixed Term Contract Basis

The last date of receipt of application will be 21 Days from the date of publication of this advertisement. For further information please visit our AVNL website www.avnl.co.in for detailed job specification, qualification, experience, skills, remuneration, procedure, application format, terms and conditions for applying for the said posts.

Note:
Any corrigendum / amendment in this advertisement will be published / uploaded on **AVNL website ONLY**.
Candidates are requested to visit the website regularly for latest updates / Corrigendum.

Chennai
Dated: 25-01-2026

HR Division, AVNL CO
Email: hr@avnl.co.in
Tele: :044 – 26844808/26844810

INBRIEF

Home Ministry's tableau to showcase new criminal laws

The Union Home Ministry will present a tableau highlighting the nationwide implementation of the three new criminal laws – the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam – on Republic Day. The tableau will be showcased on Kartavya Path during the 77th Republic Day Parade, highlighting the nationwide operationalisation of the new laws and India's transition to a modern, technology-driven, time-bound, and citizen-centric justice system, the Ministry said. "Key features showcased in the tableau include the use of e-Sakshya for digital evidence collection...," the Ministry said.

Blast damages railway track in Punjab; loco pilot injured

In a suspected sabotage, a blast on a railway track in the dedicated freight corridor in Sirhind in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib district damaged the engine of a train and left a loco pilot injured, the police said on Saturday. While Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Ropar Range) Nanak Singh said it was too early to say if it was a terror incident, an unverified statement attributed to a banned terrorist outfit, Khalistan Zindabad Force, appeared on social media in which it purportedly claimed responsibility for the blast that occurred around 9.50 p.m. on Friday. "... The loco pilot sustained a minor cut on his cheek. He is out of danger," the DIG, who visited the site, said. PTI

CBSE initiates policy reform to aid students' mental health

In a policy reform aimed at strengthening students' mental health and providing them with career guidance, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made the appointment of socio-emotional and career counsellors mandatory in all affiliated schools. For this, the education Board amended Clause 2.4.12 of the CBSE Affiliation Bylaws, 2018, following a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed before the Rajasthan High Court in July 2025 by advocate Sujeet Swami and some psychology experts. The plea highlighted rising mental health challenges among students, and sought a uniform mental health support framework in schools. PTI

Youth must prepare to take on every challenge: Rajnath

As the world is going through a period of uncertainty, India's youth must remain strong and be prepared to take on every challenge, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday. In an address to a group of National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, he also spoke of India's "befitting reply" following the Pahalgam terror attack, and urged them to draw inspiration from those who played a vital role during Operation Sindoor. Mr. Singh described the NCC cadets as the nation's second line of defence. "The Indian armed forces destroyed terrorists based in Pakistan and PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), a befitting reply to the... attack in Pahalgam," he said. PTI

SUDOKU

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3		6		8				
			1		6	7	2	9
7	6	3	9		4			
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	7		5		8			
	5	4					6	2

No.SS6771 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

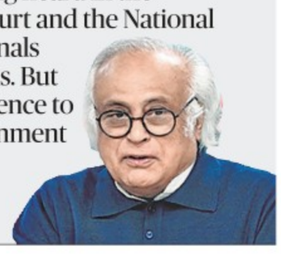
5	4	9	2	3	7	8	1	6
7	2	6	9	8	1	5	3	4
3	1	8	4	5	6	7	2	9
4	9	5	6	1	3	2	7	8
8	3	7	5	2	4	9	6	1
2	6	1	7	9	8	3	4	5
6	8	2	1	7	9	4	5	3
1	5	3	8	4	2	6	9	7
9	7	4	3	6	5	1	8	2

Coercion of tribal people for Great Nicobar project unacceptable: Congress

Party accuses Centre of pushing through the 'ecologically disastrous' project despite legal challenges; however, Environment Minister claims that all statutory clearances are in place

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Petitions are being heard in the Calcutta High Court and the National Green Tribunal. Professionals have voiced their concerns. But nothing is making a difference to an indifferent Modi government
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary (communications)



The Congress on Saturday accused the Union government of pushing through the "ecologically disastrous" Great Nicobar Island infrastructure project despite legal challenges and widespread professional objections, alleging that the Narendra Modi-led dispensation remained "indifferent" to environmental and tribal concerns.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh shared *The Hindu* news report on X, which cited members of the Tribal Council in Little and Great Nicobar alleging that the district administration was pressuring them to "surrender their ancestral land" for the project.

"Yet another example of how the ecologically disastrous Great Nicobar project is being bulldozed through. Petitions are also being heard in the Calcutta High Court and the National Green Tribunal. Professionals have voiced their concerns. But nothing is making a difference to an indifferent Modi government," Mr. Ramesh said.

Responding to allegations of coercion of tribal communities, the former Environment Minister said, "This is unacceptable and shows how the Great Nicobar project is being bulldozed through. It is an ecological disaster."

He noted that he had repeatedly raised concerns in a series of letters to the Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has also criticised the project in an opinion piece in *The Hindu*, describing it as a "planned misadventure" that poses a threat to indigenous communities and makes a "mockery of all legal and deliberative processes".

The Union government had defended the project, with Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav stating that all statutory clearances were in place and that the initiative was vital for national development.

Medha Patkar acquitted in defamation case in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Observing that the applicant has failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt against the accused, a Delhi court on Saturday acquitted Narmada Bachao Andolan activist Medha Patkar in a criminal defamation case lodged against her by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena.

Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC) Raghav Sharma of Saket Courts acquitted Ms. Patkar for the offence of defamation.

The case stems from a case filed by Mr. Saxena in 2006, who was then president of the National Council of Civil Liberties. He alleged that Ms. Patkar had made defamatory statements against him during a live television programme.

Goa institute seeks to grow as centre for wellness and medical tourism in India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
DHARGALIM (GOA)

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, is collaborating with the State government to position itself in competition to grow as a major centre for promoting wellness and medical tourism in India alongside established hubs for Ayurveda including Kerala and Uttarakhand.

The institute has requested the State government for an additional 50-acre land to aid its development as a major player in holistic and wellness industry offering integrated and preventive medical care.

Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi just over three years ago, the institute, located in North Goa's Dhargal, serves as a key centre for Ayurveda education, research, and patient care.

AIIA Goa has requested the State government for an additional 50-acre land to aid its development in the wellness industry. AIIA GOA

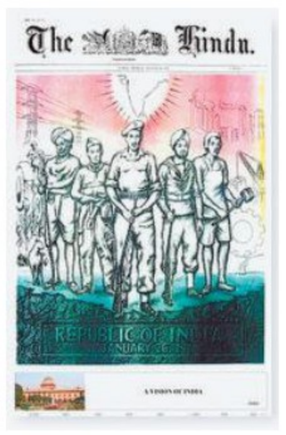
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Pradeep Kumar Prajapati, Director, AIIA (Goa), said: "The institute now caters not only to the local population here but also to patients from the neighbouring States with its integrated treatment mode combining modern and traditional medicine..."

He explained that there was a growing demand from patients, both nationally and internationally, for preventive therapies and wellness programmes.

(The writer was in Goa at the invitation of AIIA)

The Hindu's 1950 Republic Day edition available on Blinkit

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



The Hindu's specially curated collector's edition of its January 26, 1950 issue.

As India marks its 77th Republic Day on Monday, *The Hindu* has brought out a specially curated collector's edition of its historic January 26, 1950 issue. This landmark edition captures the birth of the Indian Republic and stands as a powerful archival artefact, documenting a defining moment in the nation's democratic journey.

While the original issue, priced at eight *annas*, ran to 126 pages with a collection of messages, photographs and articles, the current curated version has 62 pages, and is divided into two sections, making it convenient for readers. The newspaper, which chronicles the formal inauguration of the Republic of India – featuring the swearing-in of Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the country's first President and the first Prime Minister of Independent India Jawaharlal Nehru's address marking the dawn of constitutional governance – has been made available on Blinkit at ₹300 per copy.

Historic photographs

Rich in visual and editorial content, the edition features nearly 90 photographs, including a full-page photo feature. Among the highlights is coverage of India's Republic Day state guest, Indonesian President Sukarno, being welcomed by Prime Minister Nehru.

The collection of photographs includes those of Mahatma Gandhi having breakfast at Wardha; the Father of the Nation sharing a joke with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Nehru presenting a silver plate bearing the signatures of all Cabinet Ministers to C. Rajagopalachari at a farewell hosted by Ministers on January 22; and Nehru signing the Constitution document during the final session of the Constituent Assembly on January 24.

The issue also features two political cartoons, including one by legendary British cartoonist Sir David Low, adding to its international and artistic significance. It carries congratulatory messages from world leaders, including U.S. President Harry Truman and Lord Mountbatten, reflecting India's emergence on the global stage.

Notable articles

Among the notable articles are *Power Vs Service* by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya; *Fine Record of Indian Press* by Prof. John Coatman; *Spotlight on Film Industry* by T. M. Ramachandran; *River Valley Projects* by A.R. Venkatachari; and *Great Indian cricketers: Memories of Duleep and Pataudi by* George Duckworth.

The edition offers authoritative commentary on the Constitution, reflections on Gandhian philosophy, and insights into India's early worldview as a newly sovereign nation. Interesting period advertisements – such as a pharmacy offering a discount to commemorate the occasion – and cultural listings further enhance its nostalgic appeal, offering readers a vivid window into the social and economic life of the era.

This edition is a collector's item of deep emotional and national significance, resonating with readers across generations. Copies of the curated edition are available on Blinkit and can also be accessed by scanning the QR code.

'Empathy is strongest among those we live closely with'

Speaking of his novel *Theft*, Tanzanian author and Nobel Prize winner says that human societies are capable of accommodating quibbles and eccentricities in a family or in a community; he discusses how colonial encounters shape individuals and the importance of the story of the colonised

INTERVIEW

Abdulrazak Gurnah

Julie Merin Varughese

When author and academic Abdulrazak Gurnah first visited India, he travelled to Mumbai (then Bombay), and was struck by how closely the city's architecture resembled that of his hometown, Zanzibar (in present-day Tanzania). "Which is not surprising, because many of the builders and contractors in Zanzibar were Indian," he told a packed audience that had braved the afternoon heat on Kozhikode beach at the Kerala Literature Festival. On the occasion, a Malayalam translation (titled *Apaharanam*) of Gurnah's 2025 novel, *Theft*, was also released.

The 77-year-old author of 11 novels and several short stories and essays, spoke fondly of a childhood that lent him an early exposure to multiculturalism and co-existence, themes that recur throughout his work. Widely regarded as one of the foremost voices in contemporary postcolonial literature, Gurnah, who won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature, reflects on the motivations and ideas that shape his writing, in this interview. Edited excerpts:

GETTY IMAGES

You started writing in your 20s, after you left Zanzibar and went to the U.K. Half a century later, are your motivations the same? What has changed?

Well, what has changed is that I didn't really know what I was writing when I started, like anybody else. And there is, or there was for me, a kind of urgency to address certain issues, which I suppose having done that, now there is a different kind of desire behind the writing. And also, you gain experience, you gain confidence, so things change for that reason.

In your latest book, *Theft*, there is a lot of pain and betrayal, yet you write empathetically. Is that how you view life too – more empathy, less judgment?

I think, in general, we as human societies are capable of accommodating quibbles and eccentricities and so on amongst those we live with. And we probably are empathetic towards each other, generally. It's only when people are at a distance that they become more judgmental, I think.

But with those we are intimate with, in a community or in a family, I think we are on the whole quite forgiving. So it's that kind of sense.

After your Literature Nobel win in 2021, your books are now being translated in Africa. Has the prize changed your readership?

Yes, of course, it has changed because there are so many more translations, people are curious and interested to know something of the work of this person. And that's what prizes do, they make you visible in a way that you weren't before. And of course, the Nobel Prize has a global impact, so, there are many translations and wonderful reader response, so I'm very happy.

In Booker-nominated novel *Paradise* (1994) why did you decide to tell the story – of Africa on the brink of colonisation – through a child protagonist?

Partly because the child is naive, he does not fully understand what's going on, either in the local situation or indeed in the big world, especially at that time when [in the book] people didn't have access to radio, TV or the Internet. I wanted that naivety to be a part of how the experience unfolds.

You as a reader are much better informed than Yusuf (the protagonist) is, so you know what's going on and he doesn't. So there is an interesting irony which makes for, I think, good reading. You see how he comes to a greater understanding of his situation and indeed what is going on. And at the same time, I hope you as a reader understand it better because you're also going through that learning experience that he's going through.

And in your 2020 novel, *Afterlives*, the story of German colonisation is told through the experiences of ordinary Africans. Does that change our idea of colonialism?

Well, I hope so. Because I guess the argument is that the narrative of that encounter, the colonial encounter, more often than not, has been written by the colonisers. It's not to say that people who were colonised did not have those stories which they were saying to each other. Take, for example, the conflict in that period which is the subject of *Afterlives*. It has been written about in a certain way, but from the point of view of the European presence there. Therefore, it's not a complete story. There are things missing. It's not necessarily to say what was there before is wrong. Sometimes it is, but it's not necessarily to say it's wrong. It's more to say that it's only a part of the story.

(Julie Merin Varughese was at the Kerala Literature Festival 2026 on invitation from DC Books)

INBRIEF

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q3 PAT rises 4% to ₹3,446 crore

Kotak Mahindra Bank for the third quarter ended December 31, 2025, reported 4% year on year (YoY) growth in net profit to ₹3,446 crore. Net interest income (NII) increased to ₹7,565 crore, a 5% YoY increase. Net interest margin (NIM) was lower at 4.54% for the quarter as compared with 4.93% in the year ago period. The bank's net advances increased 16% YoY to ₹ 4,80,673 crore as at December 31, 2025. Total period-end deposits grew to ₹5,42,638 crore, up 15% YoY.

UltraTech Cement Q3 net profit at ₹1,729.44 crore

UltraTech Cement on Saturday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,729.44 crore for the December quarter of FY26. It had posted a net profit of ₹1,363.44 crore in October-December a year ago, the firm said in a filing. Revenue from operations was at ₹21,829.68 crore in the December quarter of FY26. The company said its results "for the three months and nine months ended 31/12/2025 are not comparable with the previous corresponding period". PTI

Barista Coffee targets 800-900 outlets by 2030

India's largest homegrown coffee chain Barista Coffee plans to expand its network to 800-900 outlets by 2030, with a strong focus on tier II & III towns, its CEO Rajat Agrawal said. The company, which recently inaugurated its 500th cafe in Patna, Bihar, is buoyed by the rising coffee culture among India's youth, particularly in smaller towns where aspirations and disposable incomes are on the rise. It expects a 10-fold growth in the next five years. PTI

Trade pacts bringing in jobs for youth: PM

Modi virtually hands over appointment letters for various govt. jobs, at Rozgar Mela, says India's creator economy is growing at a very fast pace

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jobs galore: PM Narendra Modi addresses the 18th Rozgar Mela through a virtual conference, in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

India is entering into multiple mobility and trade agreements that will create new employment opportunities for Indian youth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the 18th Rozgar Mela, while underscoring that the country's expanding start-up ecosystem and growing manufacturing were also key drivers of job creation.

At the Rozgar Mela, the PM virtually handed over 61,000 appointment letters for various government jobs.

"India is signing trade and mobility agreements with several countries. These trade agreements are bringing new opportunities for the youth of the nation," Mr. Modi said, addressing the Rozgar Mela at 45 locations across the country via video conferencing

The PM said that India's investments for modern infrastructure has led to significant increase in employment in every sector related to construction.

The growing start-up ecosystem, too, has led to two lakh registered start-ups in the country which have employed more than 21 lakh youth. Similarly, Digital India has expanded a new economy.

"In many fields such as animation and digital media, India is becoming a global hub. India's creator economy is growing at a very fast pace, and in this too, youth are getting new opportunities," the PM said. The PM claimed that India was becoming a big manufacturing power.

"In many sectors such as electronics, medicines and vaccines, defence, and auto, there is an unprecedented increase in both India's production and exports."

PM Modi claimed that since 2014, there was a six-fold increase in India's electronics manufacturing. "This is an industry of more than ₹11 lakh crore. Our electronics export has also crossed ₹4 lakh crore."

There were similar strides being made in the auto sector, the PM said claiming these were leading to generation of employment opportunities.

On women's employment, the PM claimed that there had been a nearly two-fold increase in women's participation in the country's workforce. "Our daughters have benefited greatly from the government's schemes like Mudra and Start-up India. There has been an increase of about 15% in the rate of women's self-employment. If I talk about start-ups and MSMEs, today there is a very large number of women directors and women founders. In our cooperative sector, and the self-help groups working in villages, women are leading in very large numbers," he said.

Among the 61,000 recipients on Saturday, 8,000 were women.

Since the inception of Rozgar Mela, more than 11 lakh recruitment letters have been issued across the country.

The newly-recruited candidates, selected from all parts of India, will be joining various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, and Department of Higher Education.

India antitrust probe links Tata, JSW to steel cartel

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Four major Indian steelmakers – Tata Steel, JSW Steel and state-run SAIL and RINL – disclosed their pricing plans to rivals and coordinated production cuts to reduce supplies, an antitrust investigation report seen by *Reuters* shows.

In the most high-profile antitrust case involving India's steel sector, an investigation by the Competition Commission of India found 28 firms colluded on steel prices, meaning they could face hefty fines, *Reuters* reported exclusively on January 6.

The investigation report into the four major companies that has not been made public

The investigation report into the four major companies that has not been made public shows the commission reviewed dozens of WhatsApp chats, including from groups named "Friends of Steel", "Tycoons" and "Steel Live Market" that were seized during 2022 industry raids.

It analysed pricing changes, sales and production patterns. Tata Steel, JSW Steel and state-run Steel Authority of India Limited, or SAIL, and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, or RINL colluded during 2018-2023, the report says.

"There is enough circumstantial evidence ... of concerted efforts by SAIL, RINL, JSW and Tata Steel," the commission report, drafted in April 2025, said.

Companies deny

Tata Steel in a statement to *Reuters* said it "categorically denies any wrongdoing". JSW, SAIL and RINL did not respond to requests for comment from *Reuters*. Their executives denied wrongdoing during the investigation, the report said.

PhonePe to grow financial services distribution businesses

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

PhonePe, India's largest digital payments platform, is planning to grow financial services distribution businesses. The firm has broadened its offering to include lending and insurance distribution services to capture the large opportunity in India's financial services sector.

"Driving sustained growth of our Financial Services Distribution business is also a key part of our revenue diversification strategy," the company said in the management commentary in the public offer document.

"We intend to expand our lending distribution business, in partnership with financial institutions, by expanding our partnership with existing credit providers and adding more partners, advancing up the value chain through innovative distribution and building relevant capabilities, including origination, repayments and collections," it said.

Using data insights, tech capabilities, and distribution scale, Phonepe said it aims to offer targeted credit products to consumers.

Zero duty access sought for Indian textiles in EU

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (Texprocil) has sought zero duty access to the European Union (EU) for textile products.

Such a deal will help restore competitiveness, strengthen farmer-linked value chains, support MSME exporters, promote sustainable, value-added exports, and significantly enhance India's footprint in the EU market from the current exports of $1.3 billion, the Texprocil said in a press release on Saturday.

Discipline, governance, long-term strategy underpin scaling of enterprise AI

The Hindu Bureau

THE HINDU GROUP presents
AI@WORK
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS WITH AI
in association with
IBM

At a recent roundtable in Chennai hosted as a part of AI@Work series organised by *The Hindu Group* in association with IBM, technology, finance and healthcare leaders gathered to examine one of the most pressing questions facing enterprises today: how to translate AI investments into measurable, sustainable business value.

The discussion, moderated by Mr. Suresh Vijayaraghavan, CTO, *The Hindu*, themed "Navigating AI investment and scalability: Strategies to drive ROI in an evolving landscape", moved beyond the hype around artificial intelligence and into the hard realities of execution, risk, and long-term transformation. The conversation was structured around three pillars: the ROI imperative, scaling smart, and strategic foresight. The first section focused on a problem that almost every organisation now faces: AI experiments are easy, but sustained value is rare. Sujatha S, Head of AI (Security) at Zoho, captured this gap succinctly. While proofs of concept are often built in ideal conditions with clean, well-structured data, the real world is far messier. "When you do a POC, you assume such picture-perfect conditions, you assume that you have perfect data, clean data. But when you take it to production, you have a plethora of challenges," she said. When AI systems move into production environments, they must deal with inconsistent, incomplete and constantly changing data. This is where many AI initiatives struggle, not because the technology is weak, but because organisations have not built the operational and data foundations needed to support it at scale. For many firms, she noted, projects fail not because the models are weak, but because the data, workflows and governance are not production-ready.

From a financial lens, Rohit Kumar Agrawala, Director – Finance at Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, reframed how executives should evaluate AI bets. "Unless you understand the business, you can't understand what kind of framework to use, what kind of value it emerges and what kind of applications or tools to use" he said, emphasising that AI must be judged against real financial thresholds, not just technological novelty. His point was that AI should not be pursued simply because it is fashionable; it must generate returns that clearly exceed financial thresholds, otherwise it becomes a poor business decision regardless of how advanced the technology may be. In other words, successful AI investment begins not with technology, but with clarity about business priorities, processes and outcomes.

Ajay Thomas John, Group CDO at the Shriram Group, argued that ROI must be linked to business maturity. "For us, our success curve is much more important than anything else. We define technology in terms of which part of your success curve is this technology on," he said.

Not all AI investments are ready for full-scale deployment; some belong in experimentation, others in core operations. He emphasised on the fact that not every AI investment needs to be enterprise-wide immediately; some technologies belong in early-stage pilots while others are ready for mainstream deployment. Understanding where a technology sits on this curve helps leaders make smarter decisions about funding, risk and expectations.

In healthcare, the case for ROI was far more immediate. Dr. Ilankumaran Kaliamoorthy, CEO - Chennai Region, Apollo Hospitals, gave a striking example: "We have started using AI-assisted reporting of X-rays. Previously, it used to take at least four hours... now the time has come down to less than 20 minutes." Here, ROI was not just financial, but measured in patient experience, clinical throughput and quality of care. This not only improves patient experience but also increases hospital efficiency and clinical productivity. His example demonstrated that in sectors like healthcare, ROI from AI is measured not just in money, but in time saved, lives improved and quality of care delivered.

Smart scaling

If ROI is about proving value, scaling is about protecting and multiplying it.

Santhosh T G, Global CDO at Switch Mobility, said that organisations must think beyond quick wins. "For a long-term perspective, it's only two things we think of – one is to build culture over a period of time and two is to build capabilities," he said. In fast-moving AI environments, sustainable advantage comes from people and processes as much as from algorithms. He argued that organisations must consciously invest in building an innovation culture and strong internal capabilities over time.

Without these foundations, even the best AI solutions will struggle to deliver value, because there will be no organisational muscle to absorb, adapt and scale them sustainably.

For Durgaprasad Swaminathan, EVP and CIO at Cholamandalam Investment and Finance, organisations fall into distinct roles. "You fall into three categories – either you are a taker, a shaper, or a maker, or a combination of these," he said. Firms must consciously decide whether they are merely consuming AI tools, shaping them to their needs, or actively building differentiated platforms. Some companies simply consume ready-made solutions, others adapt and shape them, while a few build their own platforms. Each model carries different levels of cost, control and competitive advantage. The key is to make this choice deliberately, rather than drifting into it without a clear strategy.

Operationalising AI also requires new forms of accountability. Rohit Sood, Advisory Data & AI Specialist at IBM, warned against over-automation without safeguards. "If you're bringing in agentic AI to bring decision-making into your process, it's actually a human-in-the-loop responsibility which needs to be ensured – otherwise you will never bring it into production." Without a "human in the loop," organisations risk losing control, accountability and trust. This governance is essential if AI systems are to be safely deployed in real business environments.

For banks, regulation and trust remain paramount. Sankaran G, CIO at City Union Bank, said, "Before launching any product, we need three segregations – one for regulatory, one for competency in the market, and third for customer convenience." AI, he argued, must fit cleanly within this governance framework. Even the most advanced solution cannot be launched unless it satisfies all three. This structured approach helps banks manage risk while still innovating.

Satyen Kumar Jadeja, Consulting Strategic Sales Lead BFSI, IBM, shared a real-world example of what smart scaling can achieve. "With the help of AI, we cut one bank's processing time from 28 hours to 15 minutes – their capacity is almost five times now," he said, illustrating how operational gains can translate directly into business advantage. By automating and optimising workflows, IBM helped a bank reduce processing time from 28 hours to 15 minutes, effectively multiplying its throughput without adding manpower.

This demonstrated how well-implemented AI directly translates into business scalability and efficiency. The final section turned to the future, and to the risks of both action and inaction.

Jegadeeswaran B, Senior General Manager - IT at TVS Automobile Solutions, highlighted the importance of blended skill models. "We train the internal talent pool along with the partners so that the skill coexists with the internal talent," he said, describing a hybrid approach to capability building. While external partners bring expertise, companies must also train their own employees so that skills stay within the organisation. This shared model ensures that AI knowledge becomes part of the company's DNA, allowing it to innovate faster and avoid long-term dependency on vendors.

Nagaraj Nagabushanam, Vice President - Data and Analytics and Designated AI Officer, *The Hindu*, pointed out that GenAI is uniquely accessible and that it has lowered the barrier to entry because people can now interact with technology using natural language rather than code. "One of the major advantages, especially in the GenAI space, is that English is your programming language," he said. But he also warned of deeper architectural risks. "Technical debt, I'm keenly aware that the entire architecture is changing... what we took for granted earlier may no longer hold." Organisations must therefore be careful not to accumulate technical debt by building on fragile or outdated systems that may soon become obsolete.

In healthcare IT, Ravi Balakrishnamurti, CIO at Sundaram Medical Foundation, said his organisation wanted to be proactive. "We would like to start as a maker itself – to be exposed to certain tools," he said, rather than waiting passively for off-the-shelf solutions. By exposing themselves to AI tools and building internal understanding, hospitals can design systems that are better aligned with their workflows, data and patient needs rather than relying entirely on generic solutions.

Dr. Sindhuja G, Digital Lead at Sundaram Medical Foundation, added that AI adoption must begin with clinicians' pain points. "Data entry itself used to be a pain point for us," she said, underlining that automation must reduce burden, not add to it. Doctors spend excessive time entering data instead of caring for patients. AI can relieve this load by automating documentation, allowing clinicians to focus on what truly matters: patient care.

For Sudheer Warrier, CIO at Sundaram Finance, discipline was the key to future-proofing. "Many times, we create debt because we are trying to do something with AI, not trying to solve the problem," he said. Poorly designed AI, he warned, creates systems "that are very difficult to change later." When organisations adopt AI without clearly defining the problem they are trying to solve, they end up with complex systems that are hard to change or upgrade. Thoughtful design at the start is critical to avoid future constraints.

Moderating the discussion, Suresh Vijayaraghavan, CTO, *The Hindu*, brought the conversation full circle by introducing the idea of risk of not investing. "When we don't invest for a period of time, we are accumulating technical debt and financial debt by not investing," he said – a reminder that standing still can be just as dangerous as moving too fast. By delaying AI adoption, organisations accumulate both financial and technical debt, making it harder to compete in the future. His message was that leaders must balance caution with urgency, waiting too long can be just as costly as moving too fast.

From pilots to purpose

Across industries like banking, healthcare, mobility and media, the panel made it clear that the true return on AI does not come from how many models an organisation deploys, but from how precisely it applies them to real business problems. AI creates value only when it is directed at the right use cases, implemented at the appropriate scale, and governed with discipline. Without this focus, even the most advanced technologies risk becoming expensive experiments that fail to move the needle on productivity, customer experience, or profitability.

As organisations progress from small pilots to enterprise-wide adoption, the centre of gravity shifts from technology to execution. Data readiness determines whether AI can perform reliably, governance ensures that decisions remain compliant and accountable, talent provides the capability to build and adapt systems, culture shapes how widely and confidently teams adopt them, and strategic clarity keeps investments aligned with long-term business goals. These elements form the foundation that allows AI to mature from a promising tool into a durable competitive advantage, one that continuously improves operations, enhances decision-making, and enables organisations to stay ahead.

‘Loss of native wildlife drives mosquitoes to bite humans more’

Divya Gandhi

There was once a time when mosquitos had multiple hosts to sink their piercing proboscis into, from frogs to birds. But as forests and wildlife have dwindled, they now increasingly quench their appetite with human blood.

A new study in the *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* surveyed the Atlantic Forest along the Brazilian coast, home to 850 species of birds, 370 amphibians, 200 reptiles, 270 mammals, and 350 fish.

As guava plantations, pepper plants, ornamental grass, horse breeding, and residential development expanded, a little under a third of the forest’s 1.3 million sq. km remains today. Thus mosquitoes have also been feeding on human blood more, in the process transmitting a variety of deadly viruses and parasites.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates India accounts for three-quarters of all malaria cases in South and South East Asia. About 95% of India’s population also lives in malaria endemic regions.

The authors of the new study aimed to identify mosquitoes’ food sources in the Brazilian areas to help understand ecological and epidemiological dynamics.

“Knowing that mosquitoes in an area have a strong preference for humans serves as an alert for transmission risk,” study co-author and Federal University of Rio de Janeiro microbiology and immunology researcher Sergio Machado said in a release. Co-author Jeronimo Alencar, a biologist at the Oswaldo Cruz Institute in Rio de Janeiro, said this will aid “targeted surveillance and prevention actions”.

The team used light traps with CO2 as bait to capture mosquitoes, then extracted their blood DNA for study. Based on 1,714 mosquitoes of 52 species, the team found the blood meals came from one amphibian, six birds, one canid, a mouse, and 18 humans. “Although some mosquito species may have innate preferences, host availability and proximity are extremely influential factors,” Dr. Alencar said.

The loss of native vegetation and wildlife is associated with more transmission of arboviruses, i.e. transmitted by arthropods such as mosquitoes, ticks, and sandflies. The natural habitats of vectors and their life cycles are also altered, affecting their population density.

The findings underscore the importance “of considering not only human presence but also the behaviour and feeding preferences of mosquitoes when planning vector control strategies and preventing pathogens transmitted by these insects,” the paper concluded.

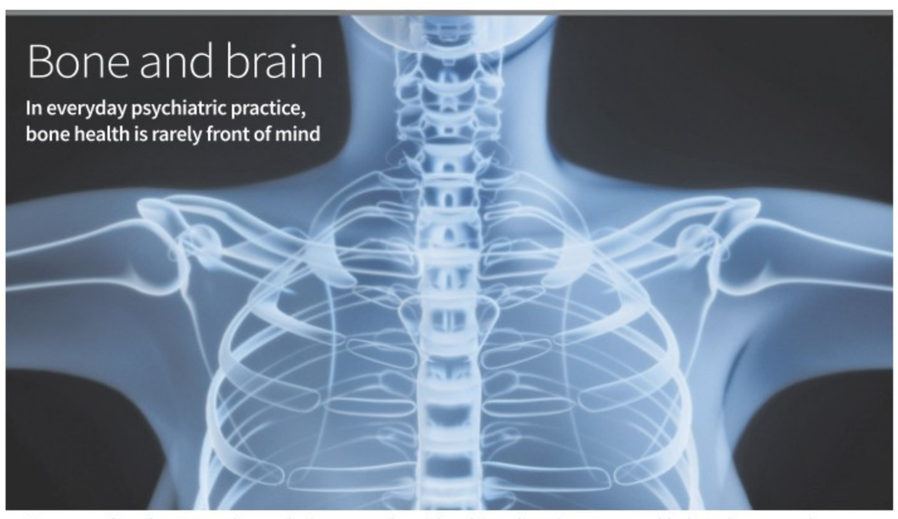
Large genetic study finds overlap in schizophrenia, bone health

Based on a laborious study, researchers identified shared genetic patterns linking schizophrenia and osteoporosis traits; the signals were spread unevenly in the skeleton, with heel bone strength accounting for most of the shared DNA regions

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

Schizophrenia is usually described as a disease of the brain. Yet for years researchers have noticed a subdued pattern in the lives of people with the condition: compared to the general population, they are more likely to have weaker bones and to suffer fractures, in part because metabolic processes involved in bone health are being disrupted.

Long-term use of antipsychotic drugs can affect the body’s metabolism and hormone balance. People with schizophrenia are also more likely to be physically inactive or to smoke, and vitamin D deficiency is common. Each of these factors increases fracture risk; together, they help explain why bone problems are more common.



Compared to the general population, people with schizophrenia are more likely to have weaker bones and to suffer fractures. ROHIT CHOUDHARI

- Schizophrenia patients often suffer from weaker bones due to lifestyle factors and antipsychotic drugs’ side effects
- Researchers recently investigated if schizophrenia and bone health shared a deeper biological connection within human genetics
- The study identified specific DNA regions that are associated with both schizophrenia and heel bone strength
- The genetic overlap was notably strong in the heel but weak or absent in other bones, for instance the forearm
- Current psychiatric care often overlooks long-term bone health despite known risks associated with the disorder
- The findings reinforce the need for holistic treatment that addresses physical risks alongside mental health concerns

A genetic study published in *Genomic Psychiatry* has now reported that schizophrenia and fragile bones might be biologically connected.

Using data from more than half a million individuals drawn from international genetic studies of schizophrenia and osteoporosis, a team led by Tianjin Medical University General Hospital, China, associate professor Feng Liu conducted an analysis large enough to unearth, if they were present, shared genetic patterns in more detail than before. The goal wasn’t to find a single bone gene or to suggest schizophrenia causes osteoporosis but to check whether the two conditions shared any genetic influences.

Previous studies had found only weak links between schizophrenia and measures of bone strength, but Liu’s team argued that that wouldn’t mean the two conditions are unrelated. Many genetic analyses look for broad patterns across all of a person’s DNA at once. When some DNA changes increase risk while others decrease it, those effects can cancel each other out, making the connection disappear.

The researchers used newer tools that looked for shared DNA regions one by one, rather than averaging everything together, allowing them to detect overlap even when genetic effects were uneven or pointed in different directions.

In genetics, the word ‘shared’ can be misleading. Prof. Liu said the team identified regions of DNA associated with both schizophrenia and bone-related traits. But this doesn’t mean the same gene directly causes both conditions. Instead it suggests that certain stretches of DNA may influence brain function and bone health through different processes in the body.

The shared genetic signals weren’t spread evenly throughout the skeleton. Among the bone measurements the team analysed, heel bone strength accounted for most of the DNA regions shared with schizophrenia. The overlap was much weaker for other parts of the body.

Prof. Liu advised caution: heel bone density has been measured in more studies than many other skeletal sites, making it easier to detect small genetic effects. Biology may also play a role. The heel bears weight and is shaped by whole-body processes such as metabolism and development, which could overlap with pathways involved in schizophrenia. Prof. Liu added that separating these explanations will require more research to measure different bones in similarly large populations.

For now, taken together, the results suggest shared genetic influences, where they exist, are specific to certain parts of the skeleton.

For clinicians, the findings do little to alter what good care should already include. “We have known for decades that persons with schizophrenia die prematurely largely because of a higher burden of non-communicable diseases that are not recognised or poorly treated,” Harvard Medical School professor Vikram Patel said.

The genetic patterns described in the study, he noted, “shed light on another possible mechanism through which these health conditions co-exist,” but have “little additional impact on the clinical care of persons with schizophrenia.”

In psychiatric practice, bone health is rarely front of mind. “Fracture risk and bone health are not very visible in the care of patients with schizophrenia,” Stanford University psychiatry fellow Akanksha Dadlani said.

Clinicians are alert to immediate risks, she explained, such as sedation or falls when prescribing antipsychotic medications. But this attention is usually short-term, focused on sudden drops in blood pressure or balance rather than on bone loss or fracture risk years later.

“There is no standard practice within psychiatry for monitoring bone density or fracture risk in this population,” Dr. Dadlani said. “As a result, bone health tends to fall between specialties, creating a gap in care rather than an area of proactive management.”

Schizophrenia is often diagnosed in early adulthood, a stage of life when bone fragility is rarely a clinical concern. By the time fracture risk becomes more relevant, long-term bone health may no longer be on clinicians’ radar.

Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi.

A natural heater hidden in India’s ‘sacred lotus’ flowers

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

Thermogenesis is the word for the way living things create their own body heat. While we usually only think of birds and mammals as being warm-blooded, all complex life forms produce some heat. Small power plants in cells, called mitochondria, turn food into a biological fuel, adenosine triphosphate (ATP). But only about one-quarter of the energy from your food actually becomes ATP; the remaining escapes as heat.

Sometimes, mitochondria can turn all the energy in sugar into heat. In plants, an enzyme that can do this is even named alternative oxidase. However, only a few plants generate heat for some very clever uses.

The ‘sacred lotus’ plant (*Nelumbo nucifera*) is native to North and Central India and grows in ponds, lakes, and gently flowing waters. Flowering begins in early summers, at mild ambient temperatures. Its pretty flower blooms for three to four days. In this period the internal temperature of the flower is around 30-35° C even as the surrounding temperature can go down to 10° C.

Thermogenesis is triggered when the unopened flower’s petal tips turn pink. Early the next day, the opening flower emits heat, which also helps in releasing an attractive scent. The lotus flower has a central cone-shaped receptacle whose flat top has 10-30 female organs, the pistils. As in other thermogenic plants, the female organs mature first. The scent attracts insect pollinators – bees and beetles – to its receptive pistils. The petals close by midday, forming a cozy, insulated chamber where insects seek shelter for the night.

The ‘sacred lotus’ plant is native to North and Central India and grows in ponds, lakes, and gently flowing waters. T. VOEKLER (CC BY-SA)

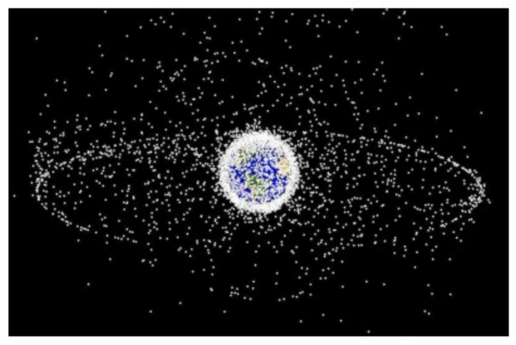
Before the flower opens on the second morning, the flower’s male organs, the stamens, mature. Fed on pollen and covered with it, the insects fly out and move to other receptive plants. The system is designed to ensure cross-pollination between plants, which offers many advantages to their offspring, including greater genetic diversity and increased pest resistance. Each pistil grows into a lotus nut and the receptacle matures into a showerhead-shaped seed pod.

The flat top carrying the pistil gets about 4-5° C warmer than the rest of the flower. Calcium ions serve as the ‘on’ switch. The level of calcium in the cells of this region jumps four times higher when it is time to warm up. This calcium heads to the mitochondria and signals them to shift into high gear. To produce heat, large amounts of stored starch and fat are used up (*Plant Physiology*, 198, 2025, kiaf173).

Some plants of the Arum family also use thermogenesis to attract insects and for other strange purposes. The Eastern skunk cabbage, not related to the cabbage, grows in the colder zones of North America and gets its name from a fetid odour reminiscent of cabbage, with a hint of mustard. The flowering stalk of this plant emerges in early spring by generating heat to melt the snow covering the soil. Beetles find a warm respite in this flower, along with pollen. A putrid smell is associated with the flowers of the dead horse arum lily, found in Sardinia. This plant uses heat to vigorously dissipate compounds like dimethyl disulphide, which smells like a leaking gas cylinder with a top note of garlic. Carrion-seeking blowflies find this odour totally irresistible and arrive in large numbers.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling.)

SNAPSHOTS



Seismometers can sense falling orbital debris

Researchers have used seismometers to detect the sonic booms created by debris from orbit falling back to the earth. By analysing the 2024 reentry of the Shenzhou-15 module over California, the team calculated the object’s speed and trajectory, finding that it landed significantly south of the official prediction. The seismic data revealed the spacecraft didn’t explode instantly but fragmented in stages. The method provides a faster, more accurate way to mobilise recovery teams than with radar.

New compounds replacing ‘forever chemicals’ in blood

When scientists tested human blood samples collected from 2003 to 2021, they found that levels of older PFAS, a.k.a. “forever chemicals”, dropped by 86% because manufacturers stopped producing them. But they found a replacement called 9Cl-PF3ONS in 68% of people tested, as well as a compound, Cl-PFNPA, never identified in human blood before. While the team didn’t find direct links between these compounds and autoimmune diseases, they warned that new, less understood varieties are taking PFAS’s place.

Virus remnants in DNA help ‘kickstart’ human life

Remnants of ancient viruses hiding in our DNA may be essential for life. At one stage, the human embryo must turn on its own genes to survive. Researchers found a viral relic called MLT2A1 that helps by creating hybrid RNA molecules, whose one end helps find genes while the other recruits proteins to turn those genes on. Without MLT2A1, the process fails and the embryo doesn’t develop. The finding could help doctors identify healthy embryos in fertility treatments.

Question Corner

Water intensive

Why is rice such a water-intensive crop?

Many rice-growing systems deliberately flood the fields and most of the water is lost to the air or to the ground. Farmers often maintain shallow flooding to stabilise some nutrient dynamics. In many paddies, water also moves sideways or down the soil unless the field is rich in clay or well sealed.
Flooding is an easy way to meet these goals but also expands the exposed water surface, so the total water demand rises.
Second, the plant needs CO_2 inside the leaf for photosynthesis. CO_2 enters primarily through open stomata, but the same open pores also allow water vapour to leave.
Third, rice is a C3 plant, and C3 photosynthesis is less water-efficient in hot or dry conditions than C4 (e.g. maize). In C3 plants, the main CO_2-fixing enzyme sometimes reacts with oxygen instead of CO_2.
Finally, flooded soils are oxygen-poor because oxygen diffuses slowly through water. Most crops’ roots struggle in these conditions. Rice is tolerant, however, because it develops air-filled channels that move oxygen from the shoots to the roots.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

What is RBI nudging India to do at BRICS?

What are the pros and cons of using central bank digital currencies for cross-border payments?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

Media houses have reported that the Reserve Bank of India is making suggestions to the Indian government and encouraging it to push other BRICS countries to work together on using digital currencies for cross-border payments. This has several advantages, but could also face some near-term risks that will have to be considered.

What is the proposal by the RBI?

While not officially announced, news reports have cited sources in the central bank saying that it has written to the Ministry of Finance to take advantage of India's chairmanship of the BRICS in 2026 to encourage the BRICS nations to use their Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) to facilitate cross-border payments. If this were to take off, it would be a payments system spanning not just the five founding members of BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – but also more recent joinees such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia. Several more countries are waiting in the wings to join the grouping.

What are central bank digital currencies?

CBDCs are legal tender issued by a central bank entirely in digital form. In India, for example, the RBI has been issuing the e-rupee on a limited scale. This currency is the same as the normal rupee, but is entirely digital and is a store of value all on its own. That is, the CBDC is held in a wallet that is separate from your bank account. Where the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) facilitates the transfer of rupees from one bank account to another, CBDCs move from a wallet to another, with each transaction recorded on a blockchain – in essence a digital ledger.

> Where the UPI facilitates the transfer of rupees from one bank account to another, CBDCs move from a wallet to another, with each transaction recorded on a blockchain

CBDCs differ from private cryptocurrencies in that, where private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin are decentralised by design, with no central issuer and no regulator, CBDCs have a very definite issuer and regulator: the central bank. Also, while most cryptocurrencies (apart from stable coins) are not pegged to any real world asset from which they can derive value, CBDCs are backed by the central bank and have a set value. That is, one e-rupee equals one rupee.

What are the benefits of using CBDCs?

Being entirely digital and linked to a blockchain makes CBDCs extremely transparent. A blockchain is a ledger visible to all parties and immutable in structure. Once a transaction is recorded, it is permanent. It cannot be deleted or modified, and the only way to 'undo' it is to conduct a reverse transaction of the same value.

Cross-border transactions are a major route for black and laundered money. The transparency and immutability of CBDCs thus could be a huge advantage in tracking these transactions and cracking down on them. In addition, the nature of these currencies allows them to be programmed in particular ways. For example, they can be programmed to be usable only for certain transactions. As the RBI website mentions, they can be programmed to be applicable on the basis of expiry dates, geo-location, merchant registration codes, particular merchant categories, etc. The limits of what can be programmed lie in the imagination of those doing the coding. The blockchain can also be programmed to record details such as the name and other identifiers of the payer and the payee, adding further transparency.

At a larger geopolitical level, CBDCs can also help India deal with some of its stickier international payments-related issues. For example, trade with Iran and Russia has become significantly harder because both countries have been excluded from the U.S. dollar-based SWIFT international payments system. At the moment, India is getting around this by making payments in national currencies, but that approach has its limitations and is not sustainable for long. CBDCs, thus, offer a workable solution. Iran held a blockchain conference in November 2025 where a number of officials urged BRICS nations to trade with it using cryptocurrencies.

What are the risks?

The first issue is that working out the legal and regulatory issues between multiple countries could take a long time and so the benefits of such a structure will likely not be available for some years ahead. The other, more significant and immediate, issue is how the U.S. will react to such a step. U.S. President Donald Trump has already in the past threatened additional tariffs on BRICS countries if they go ahead with developing alternatives to the U.S. dollar. A move to use CBDCs as opposed to the dollar, could, therefore, attract further tariffs on top of the 50% tariffs already levied on imports from India. India will have to weigh the costs of additional tariffs against the benefits of using CBDCs for cross-border payments.

Can India eliminate malaria by 2030?

What does the National Framework for Malaria Elimination in India lay down? From 2015-2023, by what percentage has malaria cases reduced in India? What is the protocol for testing, treating and tracking the disease? What does the World Malaria Report 2025 state?

Serena Josephine M.

The story so far:

In 2016, under its National Framework for Malaria Elimination in India (2016-2030), India set an ambitious target to eliminate malaria (zero indigenous cases) by 2030, with an interim milestone of interrupting indigenous transmission across the entire country, including all high-transmission States and Union Territories (UT), by 2027. By the end of 2025, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) reported that robust surveillance and sustained interventions had led to 160 districts across 23 States and UTs reporting zero indigenous malaria cases from 2022 to 2024. This was seen as a significant milestone as it meant that the country was getting closer to completely eliminating malaria.

How is prevalence of the disease measured?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a country is granted a certification of malaria elimination when "the chain of local transmission of all human malaria parasites have been interrupted nationwide for at least three consecutive years, and that a fully functional surveillance and response system is in place to prevent re-establishment of indigenous transmission". As of mid-2025, 47 countries or territories have been officially certified malaria-free by the WHO.

Where does India stand?

The World Malaria Report 2025 notes that India made significant progress in reducing malaria incidence and mortality in its high-endemic States, officially exiting the WHO "High Burden to High Impact" Group, in 2024. Malaria cases reduced by around 80% from 2015-2023 in the country. In 2024, India accounted for 73.3% of the 2.7 million estimated malaria cases in the WHO South-East Asia Region. While localised transmission driven by population movement and cross-border importation remain as key challenges, India is on track to achieve the WHO Global Technical Strategy (GTS) for malaria 2016-2030 target of at least a 75% reduction in incidence by 2025 (compared with a 2015 baseline), having already achieved reductions exceeding 70% by 2024, the World Malaria Report added.

> 'Malaria in urban areas continues to be a challenge'

If Tamil Nadu is taken as an example, data from the State's Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine show a steady decline in malaria cases, from 5,587 in 2015 to 321 in 2025. Since 2023, 33 of 38 districts have reported zero indigenous cases, placing them in "Category O" (prevention of re-establishment phase). The remaining five districts, including the capital Chennai, are classified as "Category I" (Elimination phase) where the Annual Parasite Incidence (API) is less than one case per 1,000 population at risk (API is the number of confirmed new malaria cases registered in a specific year, expressed per 1,000 individuals under surveillance, for a given country, territory, or geographic area).

Stop the spread: Fogging being carried out to prevent malaria in the flood-affected Morigaon district of Assam in 2022. RITU RAJ KOWAR

How is India working to eliminate malaria?

The country has put in place two national plans to guide and accelerate malaria elimination – the National Framework for Malaria Elimination in India (2016-2030) which outlines the vision, goals, and targets for a phased malaria elimination, and the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Malaria Elimination (2023-2027) that builds upon earlier frameworks. According to the NSP, transforming malaria surveillance as a core intervention for malaria elimination, ensuring universal access to malaria diagnosis, treatment by enhancing and optimising case management by "testing, treating and tracking" and ensuring universal access to malaria prevention by enhancing and optimising vector control are among the key strategies.

In Tamil Nadu, measures to detect malaria are being carried out intensively in government hospitals and primary health centres. Larval control measures are implemented alongside. One of the key focus areas is to monitor migrant workers. Intensive surveillance is being taken up among workers coming from malaria-prone neighbouring States.

What are the challenges?

One of the challenges is migration from malaria-endemic neighbouring States that poses a risk of reintroduction in low-transmission areas. Urban areas, according to NSP, pose a different set of challenges for malaria elimination. Special focus is given to challenging malaria paradigms such as in urban, forest, tribal, project/and border areas, hard to reach areas and migrant populations, it said.

Acknowledging that the WHO South-East Asia Region has made major progress towards malaria elimination, achieving reductions in both incidence and mortality over the past two decades, the World Malaria Report stated that significant challenges remain. Persistent *Plasmodium vivax* transmission, which accounts for nearly two thirds of regional cases, continues to complicate elimination efforts. Localised transmission in India and Nepal, driven by population movement and cross-border importation, points to the need for targeted subnational and regional coordination, it added. Other strategies by India include drug resistance monitoring, insecticide resistance monitoring and ensuring compliance of the 14 days of radical treatment for *Plasmodium vivax* cases.

The World Malaria Report 2025 has also highlighted the growing threat of antimalarial drug resistance. As the WHO noted: "Partial resistance to artemisinin derivatives – the backbone of malaria treatments after failures of chloroquine and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine – has now been confirmed or suspected in at least eight countries in Africa, and there are potential signs of declining efficacy of some of the drugs that are combined with artemisinin."

With the government focussing on achieving zero indigenous cases by 2027 and ensuring prevention of malaria re-establishment, measures to strengthen surveillance system and diagnostic capacities, and intensifying control measures in high burden districts, are pivotal.

What is the road ahead?

In its annual report of 2024-2025, the MOHFW said that in 2023, 34 States/UTs achieved an annual parasite incidence of less than one except in two States, Tripura (5.69) and Mizoram (14.23).

T. Jacob John, senior virologist, said the most important aspect in this phase is accuracy of data. Next, to ensure that private practitioners report cases, strict public health surveillance is needed. "All doctors should mandatorily report even suspected cases of malaria," he added.

T. S. Selvavinayagam, former Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Government of Tamil Nadu, said malaria in urban areas continues to be a challenge. "Urban areas or larger metropolitan cities such as Chennai face challenges due to rapid urbanisation, growing infrastructure and large number of apartment complexes where water storage conditions need to be looked at. Here, the government alone cannot play a role but needs measures at the individual household level as the source is clean water," he said.

What lies behind Trump's Greenland moves?

Why does the U.S. want Greenland? What has been the U.S. President's recent rhetoric on the Arctic territory? Is there a comedown of sorts on tariffs? On the security aspect, isn't Greenland protected by NATO? What is Greenland rich in besides reserves of oil and natural gas?

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

U.S. President Donald Trump originally mooted the idea of the U.S. taking over the Arctic territory of Greenland during his first term in office. He later cancelled a visit to Denmark after its Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen, said Greenland was "not for sale". Early in his second term, in January 2025, Mr. Trump re-upped his demand for Greenland, vowing that Washington "would tariff Denmark at a very high level" if it played spoiler, adding that he would not rule out the use of military force to push the deal through.

What happened next?

In mid-January 2026, the White House proposed a plan to slap eight European countries with a 10% tariff on "any and all goods" beginning on February 1 which was then set to increase to 25% on June 1, until an agreement was reached on Greenland. However, speaking in recent days at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Mr. Trump backed down from this strident rhetoric, announcing "the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic region." At that forum, Mr. Trump suggested that the time frame of such a deal would be "infinite". He said additional discussions on Greenland were ongoing,

> Greenland is primarily coveted by Trump for its rich natural resources and strategic location

Aggressive push: U.S. President Trump meets with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte at the World Economic Forum in Davos on January 21. AP

including the Golden Dome missile defence plan, a $175 billion system which aims to position U.S. weapons in space.

Why does Greenland matter to the U.S.?

Greenland is primarily coveted by the Trump administration for two broad reasons: its rich natural resources base and strategic location. The strategic location aspect is one that is claimed by the Trump administration, the access to resources less so. At Davos, Mr. Trump said that it is rightful for the U.S. to "have" Greenland "for security [and not] anything else." Commenting on the complexities of Arctic exploration, he noted, "You have to go 25ft down through ice to get it. It's not something that a lot of people are going to do or want to do." This argument is premised on the Trump White House's claim that Russian and Chinese influence in the region is expanding, one that is not substantiated by intelligence reports – especially given that Greenland is also protected by the security umbrella of NATO.

Similarly, there is regional reassurance for the U.S. and its allies in the fact that under the U.S.-Denmark pact of 1951, security threats to the Arctic territory could legally trigger the U.S.'s option to broaden its military presence in Greenland. Reports have noted that Washington had stationed close to 10,000 troops on the island in the Cold War period, compared to only 200 or so U.S. troops there currently.

However, there is little doubt that Greenland is home to considerable, and possibly vast, reserves of oil and natural gas, as well as certain raw materials vital for the military technologies sector, electronics industry, and clean energy outputs. Reports suggest that 25 of 34 minerals considered to be "critical raw materials" by the European Commission are present in Greenland, including graphite and titanium.

Thus, while some U.S. lawmakers have said that the Trump administration's apparent adventurism in forcing Denmark's hand on surrendering Greenland to Washington is based on protecting U.S. national security interests in areas such as shipping lanes, energy and fisheries, the true motivation for this quest likely has far more to do with striking bargains for the extraction of natural resources than what public proclamations suggest.

What about the latest agreement?

The so-called "framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland" that Mr. Trump mentioned at Davos has been long on rhetoric and short on details. The only fact known is the meeting that Mr. Trump had with NATO Secretary General, Mark Rutte, and the latter's clear statement that the discussion had not touched upon the question of Danish sovereignty over Greenland. Yet it is hard to conceive of the terms of an agreement that would be acceptable to Mr. Trump that did not at least cede partial control of certain territories within Greenland to Washington. Anonymous U.S. officials have been quoted in certain reports suggesting exactly this – that any viable agreement would likely mirror the concept of the U.K.'s military establishments in Cyprus, considered to be part of British territory.

What are the broader ramifications?

The Trump climbdown from an aggressive posture on U.S. control of Greenland was quite likely precipitated by the prospect of a potential judicial ruling against the White House's use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to slap allies and partner nations with broad-based tariffs. Importantly, European nations had also signalled that in the event of such aggression, they would seriously consider bringing into force a hard-hitting counter-tariff mechanism that would negatively impact the trade in goods and services of large U.S. tech firms conducting business in the EU. Yet, the deeper concern for other countries, is the fact that there is a lingering possibility of a territory-hungry Washington interfering in the politics of not only Denmark and Venezuela, but other countries as well.

What role should other nations play?

The rules based international order may not be what it was at the end of the first decade of the 21st century. However, it must be true that countries such as India, China, and others, still subscribe to certain basic principles of that order. These nations now need to find ways to push back on the neo-imperialist depredations of Washington, Moscow, and Tel Aviv, in terms of their brazen disregard of territorial sovereignty and human rights in the pursuit of commercial and strategic interests.

PROFILES

The chairman's circle

Board of Peace

Donald Trump says the board he proposed to oversee the reconstruction of war-devastated Gaza could become 'one of the most consequential bodies ever created', but a majority of the countries invited have stayed away from the signing ceremony in Davos

Sruthi Darbhamulla

REUTERS

CHARTER OF THE BOARD OF PEACE
PREAMBLE
CHAPTER I — PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS
CHAPTER II — MEMBERSHIP
FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THANK YOU!

At a ceremony in Davos, Switzerland, on January 22, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, a new intergovernmental organisation was formally established. The Board of Peace, proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump and endorsed by the UN Security Council in November 2025, is envisaged as part of broader global efforts to rebuild war-torn Gaza.

Mr. Trump announced the board in September 2025 as part of the second phase of a 20-point peace plan to reconstruct Gaza. This phase envisages the "demilitarisation, technocratic governance, and reconstruction" of the Gaza Strip. The board is expected to oversee the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, headed by Ali Shaath, a U.S.-friendly technocrat who was formerly a deputy minister in the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank.

According to a draft of the board's charter, it "will be tasked with promoting peace around the world and working to resolve conflicts" and engage in "peace-building functions in accordance with international law". Notably, the charter, which is 11 pages long, and comprises eight chapters and 13 articles, does not expressly mention Gaza, and later comments from Mr. Trump also indicated a potential expansion of its mandate to other conflicts.

Mr. Trump will be the inaugural chairman of the board, while the members of the founding executive board are former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, U.S. Special envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, Apollo CEO Marc Rowan, World Bank President Ajay Banga, and security advisor Robert Gabriel.

The White House has stated that each member will "oversee a defined portfolio critical to Gaza's stabilisation and long-term success," including governance capacity-building, regional relations, reconstruction, investment attraction, large-scale funding, and capital mobilisation.

At least 50 countries and private entities have been invited to join the board. While 20 representatives were present at the signing ceremony in Davos, others are still mulling over the invite. Membership of the Board will be for three years, while those countries which donate $1 billion within the first year can become permanent members.

Invitation for India

France, Sweden, Norway and Slovenia have declined invites to join the board. India was invited but is yet to make a decision. China and Russia have been invited as well. Russian President Vladimir Putin has asked that Russia's membership costs be drawn from the funds frozen by former President Joe Biden since the start of its war with Ukraine. Among those who have joined the board are Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Egypt, Morocco and Turkiye.

While Germany has expressed reservations, European nations such as Kosovo, Belarus, Hungary, and Bulgaria have signed on. From the rest of Asia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia and Mongolia have signed. South American nations Paraguay and Argentina have also joined. Israel is expected to join, although no representative was present at the Davos ceremony. Reports note that Israel may not be pleased with Turkish and Qatari representation on the board.

Canada said it has agreed to join in principle, but on January 22, Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post that he was withdrawing the invitation for Canada amid growing rift with Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Other invitees like Singapore, Croatia, Ukraine and the European Union's executive arm remain unsure, while the U.K. has expressed reservations about the invitation to Mr. Putin. Spanish media have noted that Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez is reviewing the invitation, and Irish Foreign Minister Helen McEntee echoed similar sentiments.

The charter makes no reference to a path to a Palestinian State, and no mention of this was made during the signing ceremony either.

Mohammed Mustafa, the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, told the media on the sidelines of a WEF event that they wanted to work with the Board of Peace, with the executive board and with the committee, to ensure that "they do their part of things".

Meanwhile, Palestine's Foreign Minister Varsen Aghabekian Shahin stated in a recent meeting that "any transitional institutional framework or body must not serve as a substitute for the UN."

In November, the UN Security Council approved a U.S backed resolution for the Board of Peace to operate, but only till 2027 and with Gaza as the sole focus. Notably, Russia and China abstained, saying the resolution had not outlined a clear role for the UN in the rebuilding efforts.

Several nations have expressed concerns that the board will overshadow the UN. Mr. Trump has criticised the UN and, earlier in January, signed a memo directing the withdrawal of the U.S. from 66 international organisations, including 31 UN bodies. In earlier comments, he signalled that the Board may replace the UN, but later toned down his remarks. "Once this board is completely formed, we can do pretty much whatever we want to do. And we'll do it in conjunction with the United Nations," he said.

'Beautiful piece of property'

At the signing event, Mr. Trump said he was honoured to be the chairman of what could become "one of the most consequential bodies ever created". He asserted that the Israel-Hamas war was really coming to an end, and warned Hamas to disarm, saying that if they did not, "it's going to be the end of them". Calling Gaza "a beautiful piece of property," Mr. Trump said he was a "real estate person at heart", adding that "people that are living so poorly are going to be so well."

The ceremony also saw Jared Kushner, member of the board's executive, unveiling plans to redevelop the region, complete with a plan for a "New Gaza", coastal tourism and industrial zones, high-rise buildings, new roads, public services and thousands of new jobs. He stated that there was no "Plan B" for the redevelopment of Gaza, besides engaging in a multi-stage process to end the war and rebuilding the region.

The "number one thing is going to be security – obviously we're working very closely with the Israelis to figure out a way to de-escalation, and the next phase is working with Hamas on demilitarisation," he said.

THE GIST

- The White House has stated that each member of the board will 'oversee a defined portfolio critical to Gaza's stabilisation and long-term success'
- At least 50 countries and private entities have been invited to join the board. While 20 representatives were present at the signing ceremony in Davos, others are still mulling over the invite
- Membership of the Board will be for three years, while those countries which donate $1 billion within the first year can become permanent members

In the eye of the storm

Jens-Frederik Nielsen

Greenland's PM has to walk a tightrope between rejecting Trump's imperial overtures and accommodating American investments and security presence while navigating domestic politics

Smriti Sudesh

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

"We choose Denmark over the United States if asked to make such a choice here and now."

The words came from Jens-Frederik Nielsen, Prime Minister of Greenland, an autonomous Danish territory, during a joint press conference with Danish PM Mette Frederiksen in Copenhagen as U.S. President Donald Trump renewed his threats to annex the Arctic territory. The threat of a U.S. takeover receded after Mr. Trump said at Davos that he had agreed to a framework deal with European nations over Greenland. But the crisis is far from over. With an unpredictable Mr. Trump insisting that the U.S. needs Greenland for 'national and global security', Mr. Nielsen, leader of the island's 55,000 people, has been caught in the eye of a rare transatlantic geopolitical storm.

Mr. Nielsen, a former badminton champion and the head of the Demokraatit (centre-right) party, is the first member of his party to hold the premiership. He previously served as Minister of Labour and Mineral Resources in the Kielsen VII Cabinet from May 2020 to February 2021, a portfolio that now seems strikingly relevant given the crisis engulfing his tenure. The Trump administration's interest in the world's largest island is hardly whimsical. Beneath the island's ice sheet lie vast deposits of rare earth elements, which are essential for everything from smartphones to military technology. China currently dominates global rare earth production. Greenland, therefore, represents one of the few viable alternatives for Western nations seeking supply chain independence.

Adding to this is climate change, which has increased the island's strategic value. As Arctic ice melts, new shipping routes are opening that could reshape global trade, cutting weeks off journeys between Asia and Europe. What was once impassable ice is becoming navigable water, and whoever controls Greenland's waters and ports could control these crucial new routes.

Greenland hosts the Pituffik Space Base, formerly Thule Air Base, home to a key U.S. early-warning radar system tracking Russian and Chinese activity in the Arctic. The base has operated since 1943 and remains vital to North American aerospace defence. Its strategic location also makes it vital for NATO's collective defence, as the alliance relies on early-warning capabilities in the Arctic to safeguard North America and Europe.

Mr. Trump first floated the idea of buying Greenland in 2019, offering what he described as a "large real estate deal". Danish Prime Minister Frederiksen called the idea "absurd". Mr. Trump's return to office, however, has brought renewed pressure.

For Mr. Nielsen, who came to power last year, this represents a crisis that cuts to the heart of Greenlandic identity.

Colonial memories

For Greenlanders, these overtures have revived painful colonial memories. The island's Inuit population endured centuries of Danish rule that included forced assimilation, family separations, and community displacements. The territory has been on a decades-long journey toward greater autonomy from Denmark, which colonised the island in the 18th century. Greenland achieved home rule in 1979 and expanded self-governance in 2009, controlling most domestic affairs while Denmark handles foreign policy and defence. Many Greenlanders dream of full independence, but economic reality complicates that aspiration, and Denmark provides annual subsidies of approximately $600 million, roughly a third of Greenland's GDP. That, precisely, is Mr. Nielsen's long-term goal: independence for Greenland, achieved through economic self-reliance.

The population's response to the Trump overtures is nuanced. While Greenlanders don't want their island to become an American territory, there is a growing frustration with Denmark's oversight-driven approach. Greenland's economy remains heavily dependent on fishing. Some younger Greenlanders see American investment, on Greenland's terms, as potentially beneficial. But investment is very different from annexation.

This is the tightrope Mr. Nielsen must walk. He cannot appear weak before Mr. Trump's threats, which would embolden American pressure and undermine Greenlandic dignity. Yet he cannot afford to completely alienate the U.S., whose investment and military presence remain facts of Arctic life. Simultaneously, he must manage relations with Denmark, which has its own fraught relationship with its former colony, while navigating domestic politics.

The silicon curtain

Pax Silica

By formalising a coalition that includes Australia's mines to Singapore's logistics and Japan's precision machinery, the U.S. is attempting to build a 'closed-loop' ecosystem

John Xavier

GETTY IMAGES

"If the 20th century ran on oil and steel, the 21st century runs on compute and the minerals that feed it," declared Jacob Helberg, U.S. Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, as America launched a chip supply chain alliance to "build the AI ecosystem of tomorrow – from energy and critical minerals to high-end manufacturing and models".

Signed by nine countries – Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Singapore, the UAE, and the U.K. – in mid-December, 'Pax Silica' seeks to map a new geography of computing power. [Non-signatory participants include Canada, the EU, the Netherlands, OECD countries, and Taiwan.]

For decades, the semiconductor supply chain was governed by the cold, borderless logic of competitive advantage and cheap labour. Chips were designed in California, printed in the Netherlands, fabricated in Taiwan and South Korea, and assembled in the vast factories of mainland China.

Pax Silica signals a definitive end to this era of efficiency. By formalising a coalition that includes Australia's mines to Singapore's logistics and Japan's chemical manufacturing and precision machinery, the U.S. is attempting to build a 'closed-loop' ecosystem.

The implied goal is to insulate the AI development from China's dominance as Beijing is rapidly advancing domestic chip-making capacity.

This closed-loop approach marks a profound shift in American strategy. Rather than seeking a sprawling consensus among all Indo-Pacific partners – many of whom have deeply entangled trade ties with Beijing – Washington is prioritising politically aligned states that are technologically aligned and willing to buy American tech and integrating with America's economic security protocols.

Under this initiative, members are expected to synchronise semiconductor design, launch joint ventures in AI research, and align their investments in rare earths. Pax Silica seems like a functional successor to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), but with a sharper focus on supply chain for chip-making. The IPEF was launched during the Biden administration to boost economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region with a focus on trade, supply chain, clean energy and fair economy. India was part of the 14-member country group, but maintained an observer status in trade.

However, the 'Pax' is already proving to be a flexibility test. Despite the initial exclusion of New Delhi, the strategic map is being redrawn as the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to India signalled a pivot, indicating that Washington intends to formally invite India to join Pax Silica as early as February. This move suggests that for this alliance to achieve true global scale, India must be member country.

The Indian paradox

What India brings to the table is not just its burgeoning market, but its unique role as the talent powerhouse. With its immense pool of engineering talent and dominance in software services, India is the logical site for the labour-intensive 'design-to-delivery' pipeline of the AI age – a fact that India's IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw pointed out at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The country's demographic dividend and its status as a data-rich democracy make it a key pillar for a Western-led tech bloc. Yet, New Delhi's journey toward the 'Silicon Curtain' is complicated by its own pragmatic foreign policy. Even as it prepares to join a U.S.-led security architecture aimed at countering Chinese influence, New Delhi is simultaneously signalling a tactical thaw with Beijing.

After years of frosty relations following border skirmishes, the Indian government is reportedly considering easing restrictions on Chinese investments.

This creates a paradoxical landscape. India may soon sit at the Pax Silica table to help secure a supply chain away from China, while at the same moment opening its own domestic doors to Chinese firms to bolster its industrial growth. For India, the goal is not total decoupling, but rather a "re-balancing" where it can leverage Western security ties while maintaining the economic benefits of its proximity to the world's factory.

Silicon may be the "new oil", but unlike oil, it is a product of human ingenuity that requires a global, frictionless exchange of ideas to remain cutting-edge. As Washington prepares to expand its inner circle to include New Delhi in February, it must decide whether Pax Silica is a bridge to a new era of secure prosperity, or merely a very expensive fortress.

QAMISHLI

Syrian troops, Kurdish forces on standby as truce deadline looms

AFP

Syrian troops and Kurdish forces were massed on opposing sides of front lines in northern Syria on Saturday, as the clock ticked down to an evening deadline that would determine whether they resume fighting or lay down their arms. Turkey, as well as some officials in Syria, said on Friday that the deadline could be extended. REUTERS

CARACAS

Venezuela says over 600 prisoners released; families' patience wanes

AP

Venezuela's Interim President Delcy Rodriguez said on Friday 626 inmates have been released, far more than estimated by rights groups, who are demanding the liberation of all political prisoners. Rights group Foro Penal said it had counted 155 political prisoners released, and estimated that over 700 were still being held. AFP

JAVA

Landslide kills at least eight people, more than 80 missing in Indonesia

AFP

A landslide killed at least eight people and left more than 80 missing on Indonesia's main island of Java on Saturday, a disaster official said. Triggered by heavy rainfall, it struck villages in Java's West Bandung region burying residential areas. The region's Mayor said the military, police and volunteers were involved in the search. AFP

PESHAWAR

Seven killed in suicide bombing at a wedding in northwest Pakistan

AP

The death toll from a suicide bombing at a wedding near the Afghan border rose to seven on Saturday, police said, as Pakistan struggles to deal with a wave of militant attacks. The bombing tore through a building housing members of a peace committee during a wedding ceremony on Friday in Dera Ismail Khan district. REUTERS

China places senior officials under probe over 'violation of discipline'

Top general Zhang Youxia, seen as Xi Jinping's closest military ally, and another high-ranking official are being investigated for serious violations of the ruling Communist Party's laws; analysts watch for impact of probe on China's military posture

Reuters
BEIJING

China's Communist Party has decided to open an investigation into senior military officials Zhang Youxia and Liu Zhenli for suspected serious violations of discipline and law, China's Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

Mr. Zhang is a member of the elite Politburo of the ruling Communist Party and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), while Mr. Liu is chief of staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department.

Mr. Zhang, 75, a veteran moderniser, is widely seen as President Xi Jinping's closest military ally and one of just a few leading officers with combat experience. He is one of two vice-chairmen of the CMC, China's supreme armed forces command organisation.

CMC Vice-Chairman Zhang Youxia (front), with his chief of staff Liu Zhenli (second from left) seen in this 2023 photo. REUTERS

The military was one of the main targets of a broad corruption crackdown ordered by Mr. Xi in 2012. That drive reached the upper echelons of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 2023 when the Rocket Force was targeted.

Eight top generals were expelled from the Communist Party on graft charges in October 2025, including the country's number two general, He Weidong. He had served under Mr. Xi and alongside Mr. Zhang on the Central Military Commission.

Two former Defence Ministers were also purged from the ruling party in recent years for corruption. The crackdown is slowing procurement of advanced weaponry and hitting the revenues of some of China's biggest defence firms.

Foreign diplomats and security analysts are watching developments closely, given Mr. Zhang's closeness to Mr. Xi and the importance of the commission's work in terms of command as well as the PLA's ongoing military modernisation and posture.

While China has not fought a war in decades, it is taking an increasingly muscular line in the disputed East China Sea and South China Sea, as well as over the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which is claimed by China. Beijing staged the largest military exercises to date around Taiwan late last year.

Mr. Zhang's removal is the second of a sitting general on the Central Military Commission since the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

Iran warns of an 'all-out war' amid U.S. military build-up

Reuters
PARIS

Iran will treat any attack "as an all-out war against us," a senior Iranian official said on Friday, ahead of the arrival of a U.S. military aircraft carrier strike group and other assets in West Asia in the coming days.

"This military build-up - we hope it is not intended for real confrontation - but our military is ready for the worst-case scenario. This is why everything is on high alert in Iran," said the senior Iranian official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"This time we will treat any attack - limited, unlimited, surgical, kinetic, whatever they call it - as an all-out war against us, and we will respond in the hardest way possible to settle this," the official said. U.S.

A solidarity protest for people of Palestine, Venezuela, and Iran held in South Africa.

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that the United States had an "armada" heading toward Iran but hoped he would not have to use it, as he renewed warnings to Tehran against killing protesters or restarting its nuclear program.

"If the Americans violate Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, we will respond," said the Iranian official. He declined to specify what an Iranian response might look like.

"A country under constant military threat from the United States has no option but to ensure that everything at its disposal can be used to push back and, if possible, restore balance against anyone who dares to attack Iran," the official said.

The U.S. military has in the past periodically sent increased forces to West Asia at times of heightened tensions, moves that were often defensive. However, the U.S. military staged a major build-up last year ahead of its June strikes against Iran's nuclear program.

Analysts say a military build-up could give Mr. Trump the option to carry out strikes.

Trump threatens Canada with 100% tariff over China trade deal

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday warned Canada that if it concludes a trade deal with China, he will impose a 100% tariff on all goods coming over the border.

Relations between the United States and its northern neighbor have been rocky since Mr. Trump returned to the White House a year ago, with spats over trade and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney decrying a "rupture" in the U.S.-led global order.

During a visit to Beijing last week, Mr. Carney hailed a "new strategic partnership" with China that resulted in a "preliminary but landmark trade agreement" to reduce tariffs.

If Mr. Carney "thinks he is going to make Canada a 'Drop Off Port' for China to send goods and products into the United States, he is sorely mistaken," Mr. Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"If Canada makes a deal with China, it will immediately be hit with a 100% tariff against all Canadian goods and products coming into the USA."

White House fires back at Starmer

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The White House rejected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's slamming of President Donald Trump for saying NATO allies avoided front line in Afghanistan. "We has done more for NATO than any other country in the alliance," spokeswoman Taylor Rogers said.

U.S. defence strategy tells allies to handle their own security

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Pentagon prioritises homeland, curbing China; plans to limit support for allies

The Pentagon released a priority-shifting National Defense Strategy late on Friday that chastised U.S. allies to take control of their own security and reasserted the Trump administration's focus on dominance in the Western Hemisphere above a longtime goal of countering China.

The 34-page document, the first since 2022, was highly political for a military blueprint, criticising partners from Europe to Asia for relying on previous U.S. administrations to subsidise their defence. It called for "a sharp shift – in approach, focus, and tone."

The new policy document views China as a settled force in the Indo-Pacific region that only needs to be deterred from dominating the U.S. or its allies. The goal "is not to dominate China; nor is it to strangle or humiliate them," the document says. The strategy, meanwhile, makes no mention of or guarantee to Taiwan

In another example of offloading regional security to allies, the document says, "South Korea is capable of taking primary responsibility for deterring North Korea with critical but more limited U.S. support."

While saying that "Russia will remain a persistent but manageable threat," the defense strategy asserts that NATO allies are much more powerful and so are "strongly positioned to take primary responsibility for Europe's conventional defense."

The U.S. already has confirmed that it will reduce its troop presence on NATO's borders with Ukraine.

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Corrigendum / Addendum

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ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in

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Kochi venue partner: St. Teresa's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam
Bengaluru venue partner: Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University)
Delhi venue partner: BIMTECH Birla Institute of Management Technology

Registrations / Rules:
Scan the QR code or visit:
thbl.news/THBLQPA

*T&C apply

M BG-BGE

RAIN-HIT MATCH

India cruises past New Zealand to top Group B in u-19 World Cup

ICC

India crushed New Zealand by seven wickets (DLS method) in an u-19 World Cup match in Bulawayo on Saturday. With its third successive win, India topped Group B. **The scores:** NZ 135 in 36.2 overs (Ambrish 4/29, Henil 3/23) lost to India 130/3 in 13.3 overs (Suryavanshi 40, Mhatre 53) by DLS method; **PoM:** Ambrish.

GEARING UP

Super King Dhoni begins preparations for IPL 2026

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Former India and Chennai Super Kings captain M.S. Dhoni has returned to training in Ranchi, fuelling speculation that he has started preparations for the IPL 2026. In a social-media post, Jharkhand State Cricket Association shared a clip of Dhoni being padded up for a net session with the caption 'Look who is back'.

ON EVEN TERMS

Root helps England level ODI series against Sri Lanka

AFP

Joe Root's 90-ball 75 set up England's win against Sri Lanka in the second ODI of the three-match series in Colombo on Saturday to level 1-1. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 219 in 49.3 overs (Dhananjaya de Silva 40, Charith Asalanka 45) lost to England 223/5 in 46.2 overs (Joe Root 75, Harry Brook 42); **Toss:** Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Root.

BIDDING FAREWELL

I'm sad to leave, but it has been an amazing journey: Wawrinka

AP

Stan Wawrinka bid goodbye after his loss to Taylor Fritz at the Australian Open on Saturday. "Cheers everybody! Thank you for the wildcard invitation. It is my last time as a tennis player here, unfortunately. I had so many emotions in the last 20 years. I'm sad to leave, but it has been an amazing journey," Wawrinka said.

DC puts an end to RCB's winning streak

Nandani leads a spirited bowling effort to bundle out the Bengaluru side for 109; the Delhi outfit chases down the target with 26 balls to spare

WPL-4

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

Delhi Capitals operated like a pack of wolves with the ball on Saturday. The impact was palpable as the Jemimah Rodrigues-led outfit bowled out Royal Challengers Bengaluru, which had won its first five matches of the 2026 Women's Premier League, for 109 to set up a seven-wicket victory at the Kotambi Stadium.

Riding on Laura Wolvaardt's unbeaten 42 in the modest chase, Capitals sauntered home in 15.4 overs.

DC's splendid bowling performance was the result of a collective effort. Seamer Nandani Sharma ran through the RCB lower-order to finish with figures of 4-0-26-3. Chinelle Henry, Marizanne Kapp and Minnu Mani took two wickets each while Shree Charani chipped in with a scalp.

Henry and Kapp set the tone with testing opening spells. Kapp had the in-form Smriti Mandhana fretting with a vociferous leg-before appeal in the second over, but Capitals couldn't review because the South African had overstepped.

Having ambled to five off 13 balls, Smriti finally broke the shackles with successive fours against Henry.

The deliveries were on the fuller side, and allowed Smriti to unfurl her exquisite drives. When Nandani came into the attack instead of Henry in the fifth over, the southpaw repeated the dose.

However, it didn't take much longer for Kapp to break the opening partnership. Grace Harris' leading edge off an attempted flick was snaffled at backward point. The DC bowlers went on to string together a run of 21 deliveries without conceding a boundary. That was halted off the final ball of the eighth over, when Smriti danced down the track and smashed Sneh Rana for a maximum over long-on.

Smriti, though, wasn't able to carry on. Once she slog-swept Minnu to Niki Prasad at deep square leg in the 10th over, RCB descended into a deeper hole. The last nine wickets fell for just 47 runs as none of the incoming batters were able to find a way out of trouble.

Nandani, who picked up a five-for earlier in her debut season, was brilliant at the death.

The 24-year-old gave away 11 runs in her last two overs and added three wickets to her tally to reclaim the Purple Cap.

Growing in stature: Nandani struck vital blows much to the delight of skipper Jemimah. FILE PHOTO: PTI

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Grace Harris c Wolvaardt b Kapp 9 *(13b, 2x4)*, Smriti Mandhana c Niki b Minnu 38 *(34b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Georgia Voll b Kapp 11 *(14b)*, Gautami Naik b Shree Charani 3 *(7b)*, Richa Ghosh c Wolvaardt b Minnu 5 *(9b)*, Radha Yadav c Lee b Henry 18 *(17b, 1x6)*, Nadine de Klerk c Jemimah b Henry 5 *(9b)*, Arundhati Reddy lbw b Nandani 2 *(5b)*, Sayali Satghare b Nandani 3 *(5b)*, Shreyanka Patil c Shafali b Nandani 7 *(7b, 1x4)*, Lauren Bell (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-4): 7; Total (in 20 overs): 109.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-36 (Harris, 5.3 overs), 2-62 (Smriti, 9.2), 3-67 (Gautami, 10.5), 4-69 (Voll, 11.4), 5-78 (Richa, 13.5), 6-94 (Radha, 16.3), 7-97 (Arundhati, 17.3), 8-99 (de Klerk, 18.1), 9-108 (Shreyanka, 19.4).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Henry 4-0-22-2, Kapp 4-0-17-2, Nandani 4-0-26-3, Shree Charani 4-0-14-1, Sneh 1-0-10-0, Minnu 3-0-18-2.

DELHI CAPITALS
Shafali Verma st. Richa b Sayali 16 *(8b, 4x4)*, Lizelle Lee c Voll b Sayali 6 *(8b, 1x4)*, Laura Wolvaardt (not out) 42 *(38b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Smriti b Radha 24 *(26b, 4x4)*, Marizanne Kapp (not out) 19 *(15b, 3x4)*; Extras (b-1, nb-1, w-2): 4; Total (for three wkts. in 15.4 overs): 111.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-17 (Shafali, 1.4), 2-24 (Lee, 3.3), 3-76 (Jemimah, 11.4).

RCB BOWLING
Bell 4-0-30-0, Sayali 3-0-18-2, Arundhati 2-0-17-0, Shreyanka 2.4-0-14-0, de Klerk 1-0-9-0, Radha 2-0-10-1, Voll 1-0-12-0.
Toss: Capitals; **PoM:** Kapp.
DC won by seven wickets with 26 balls to spare.

ICC names Scotland as Bangladesh's replacement; PCB awaits govt. nod

T20 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Saturday confirmed Scotland as Bangladesh's replacement for the T20 World Cup. The sport's global governing body said that the "difficult decision" had to be taken since it was not feasible to meet Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) request to shift its matches to Sri Lanka so close to the tournament.

The ICC maintained that there was no verifiable security threat to the Bangladesh national team, officials or supporters in India and that it was not appropriate to amend the tournament schedule. "Bangladesh will no longer compete in the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, after the BCB refused to participate in the tournament per the published match schedule," ICC said.

"The decision follows an extensive process undertaken by the ICC to address concerns raised by the BCB regarding the hosting of its scheduled matches in India," the ICC added. Scotland has been called up to take Bangladesh's place in Group C. Scotland will play its group games against the West Indies (Feb. 7), Italy (Feb. 9) and England (Feb. 14) in Kolkata, followed by a clash against Nepal in Mumbai on Feb. 17. "Scotland is the next-highest ranked T20I team that had originally missed T20 World Cup qualification," the ICC added.

> Scotland is the next-highest ranked T20I team that had originally missed T20 World Cup qualification
> ICC

Bangladesh's unceremonious ouster will badly hit BCB's coffers. The BCB will lose the participation fee of $500,000, but the bigger potential loss could be its share of ICC's annual revenue.

Will Pakistan travel?

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday said the Pakistan government will take the final decision on the national team's participation in the T20 World Cup, following Bangladesh's removal from the tournament.

Naqvi said the matter would be placed before Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who is currently out of the country, once he returns. "Whether we play in the T20 World Cup or not, the decision will be taken by the government," Naqvi said.

Red-hot India sets sights on another T20I series triumph

NZ IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

In the lead-up to a marquee ICC event such as the T20 World Cup, a bilateral assignment offers teams an ideal platform to fine-tune strategies and settle on combinations. Often, the contest's outcome takes a back seat as the focus shifts to the big picture. Still, there is nothing better than a morale-boosting series win heading into a multi-nation competition. India will aim for exactly that when it takes on New Zealand in the third T20I at the ACA Stadium here on Sunday.

Suryakumar Yadav's men produced dominant victories in Nagpur and Raipur and now have set their sights on wrapping up the five-match rubber. The Men in Blue are hitting their stride at the right moment.

The twin wins have shown that the final pieces of the puzzle are falling into place for the reigning champion. The depth in India's batting line-up shone brightly and in contrasting styles – one while setting up a target and another chasing.

In recent times, one of the concerns for the hosts had been the form of Suryakumar, who hadn't scored a half-century since the back-end of 2024.

The 35-year-old showed signs of regaining his fluency in Nagpur (32) and in Raipur confirmed that uptrend with a scintillating unbeaten 82 (37b, 9x4, 4x6) to help chase down a 209-run target inside 16 overs on Friday.

Ishan Kishan's match-winning knock (76, 32b, 11x4, 4x6) in Raipur should please the management.

On the bowling front, while Arshdeep Singh had a forgettable day in the second game, the rest of the attack – operating without spearhead Jaspirt Bumrah – responded well by applying the brakes in the middle phase to restrict the Kiwis to a reasonable total.

The visitors, however, have quite a few headaches to sort out.

Opener Devon Conway has had a quiet run so far in the subcontinent, and must step up. The bowlers, too, have been sent on a leather hunt in both outings and need to find a way to tie down the home team's batters.

Two months ago at this venue, India suffered the ignominy of its heaviest defeat in terms of runs in Tests against South Africa. On Sunday, the Gautam Gambhir-coached team has a chance to clinch a ninth consecutive bilateral T20I series and sound the bugle ahead of the global showpiece.

On a roll: The Men in Blue have a chance to clinch a ninth consecutive bilateral T20I series. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Axar Patel (Vice-capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ishan Kishan (wk) and Ravi Bishnoi.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (Capt.), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway (wk), Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Bevon Jacobs, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson, Ish Sodhi and Kristian Clarke.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

Augsburg stuns Bayern; Inter Milan extends lead

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MUNICH

Augsburg stunned Bundesliga leader Bayern Munich 2-1 on Saturday to hand its Bavarian rival a first league defeat since March.

Hiroki Ito's opener gave the defending champion an early lead but Augsburg fought back with two goals in five second-half minutes from Arthur Chaves and Han-Noah Massengo.

Inter Milan hammered Pisa 6-2 on Friday and move six points clear at the top of Serie A.

The results: Premier League: West Ham 3 (Summerville 14, Bowen 28-pen, Fernandes 43) bt Sunderland 1 (Brobbey 66); Fulham 2 (Chukwueze 72, Wilson 90+2) bt Brighton 1 (Ayari 28); Manchester City 2 (Marmoush 6, Semenyo 45+2) bt Wolves 0; Burnley 2 (Tuanzebe 45, Foster 76) drew with Tottenham 2 (van de Ven 38, Romero 90).
LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 1 (Ciss 59) lost to Osasuna 3 (Budimir 29, Victor Munoz 90+1, Osambela 90+4).
Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 1 (Ito 23) lost to Augsburg 2 (Chaves 75, Massengo 81); Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Vazquez 37) bt Werder Bremen 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Kalimuendo 18) lost to Hoffenheim 3 (Moerstedt 52, Kabak 60, Amenda 65-og); Mainz 3 (Tietz 68, Bell 73, Amiri 83-pen) bt Wolfsburg 1 (Amoura 3); Heidenheim 0 lost to RB Leipzig 3 (Baku 62, Nusa 68, Raum 70).
On Friday: LaLiga: Levante 3 (Martinez 50, De la Fuente 68, Matturro 90+6) bt Elche 2 (Rodriguez 11, Boayar 90+3).
Serie A: Inter Milan 6 (Zielinski 39-pen, Martinez 41, Esposito 45+1, Dimarco 81, Bonny 86, Mkhitaryan 90+3) bt Pisa 2 (Moreo 11, 23).
Bundesliga: St. Pauli 0 drew with Hamburg 0.

Day 7 in numbers

0 For the first time at a Grand Slam in the Open era, no unseeded player has reached the men's singles round-of-16

1 Pegula has reached the round-of-16 at consecutive Slams without dropping a set for the first time

1 Three Italian men (Sinner, Musetti and Darderi) have reached the round-of-16 for the first time at the Australian Open

3 Musetti is just the third Italian man (after Berrettini and Sinner) to reach the fourth round of all four Majors

4 Four American men have reached the round-of-16 in Melbourne in successive seasons for the first time since 1996-97

17 Sinner becomes the youngest man since Courier (1994) to win 17 consecutive matches at the Melbourne Major

125 Keys is the second woman (after Venus - 271) among active players to register 125 victories at Slams

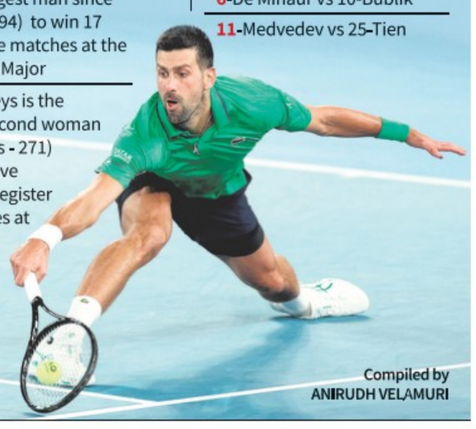
102 Djokovic equals Federer for most wins at the Australian Open

400 Djokovic becomes the first player to record 400 wins at Grand Slams

Sunday's Picks

WOMEN
1-Sabalenka vs 17-Mboko
3-Gauff vs 19-Muchova
8-Andreeva vs 12-Svitolina
29-Jovic vs Putintseva

MEN
1-Alcaraz vs 19-Paul
3-Zverev vs 18-Cerundolo
6-De Minaur vs 10-Bublik
11-Medvedev vs 25-Tien



Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Djokovic, Sinner and Keys brave brutal heat; Osaka pulls out

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Brutal heat triggered a five-hour suspension of matches on outside courts at the Australian Open on Saturday as Novak Djokovic powered to another landmark win, but Naomi Osaka pulled out.

The 38-year-old swept past Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7) under a closed roof on the Rod Laver Arena. He became the first player to win 400 Grand Slam matches and is now in the last 16. The Serbian will meet either Czech rising star Jakub Mensik or American tournament debutant Ethan Quinn.

On a dramatic day on and off court, reigning champions Jannik Sinner and Madison Keys moved into the last 16. Two-time champion Osaka was supposed to be in action in the third round but pulled out hours before because of an abdominal injury. She was due to face Maddison Inglis, who went on to play Iga Swiatek in the last 16. Swiatek beat 31st Russian seed Anna Kalinskaya 6-1, 1-6, 6-1. Before that, Sinner pulled through 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 over Eliot Spizzirri on centre court. Sinner will next face fellow Italian Luciano Darderi.

Lorenzo Musetti saw off Tomas Machac in five sets.

Earlier, Keys set up a last-16 showdown with Jessica Pegula after she dismissed former World No. 1 Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-3.

The sixth-seeded Pegula powered past unseeded Russian Oksana Selekhmeteva 6-3, 6-2. Amanda Anisimova made light work of Peyton Stearns 6-1, 6-4.

India's Yuki Bhambri advanced to the third round of men's doubles, while compatriot N. Sriram Balaji bowed out, marking a mixed day for the Indian contingent.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Third round: Men: 5-Musetti (Ita) bt Machac (Cze) 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2; 9-Fritz (USA) bt Wawrinka (Sui) 7-6(7), 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; 8-Shelton (USA) bt 30-Vacherot (Mon) 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(7); 22-Darderi (Ita) bt 15-Khachanov (Rus) 7-6(7), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 2-Sinner (Ita) bt Spizzirri (USA) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; 4-Djokovic (Ser) bt Van de Zandschulp (Ned) 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(4); 16-Mensik (Cze) bt Quinn (USA) 6-2, 7-6(5), 7-6(5); 12-Ruud (Nor) bt Cilic (Cro) 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.
Women: 6-Pegula (USA) bt Selekhmeteva (Rus) 6-3, 6-2; 9-Keys (USA) bt Pliskova (Cze) 6-3, 6-3; Xinyu (Chn) bt 13-Noskova (Cze) 7-5, 6-4; 4-Anisimova (USA) bt Stearns (USA) 6-1, 6-4; 21-Mertens (Bel) bt Bartunkova (Cze) 6-0, 6-4; Inglis (Aus) w.o. 16-Osaka (Jpn); 2-Swiatek (Pol) bt 31-Kalinskaya (Rus) 6-1, 1-6, 6-1; 5-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Valentova (Cze) 6-2, 6-3.

Fallen seeds
Men: 15-Khachanov, 30-Vacherot
Women: 13-Noskova, 16-Osaka, 31-Kalinskaya

Men's doubles (second round): 10-Yuki (Ind) & Goransson (Swe) bt Gonzalez (Mex) & Pel (Ned) 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-3; 4-Pavic (Cro) & Arevalo (Slo) bt Sriram Balaji (Ind) & Oberleitner (Aut) 7-5, 6-1.

INBRIEF

Pratika, Vaishnavi, Kranti in Test squad to face Australia

Pratika Rawal, along with left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma and seamer Kranti Gaud, received their maiden long-format call-ups for the one-off Test against Australia in Perth from March 6 to 9. The 15-member squad will be led by Harmanpreet Kaur. The Test will follow the three T20Is and three ODIs, beginning Feb. 15. The India-A squad for the ACC Rising Star Asia Cup in Thailand between February 13 and 22 will be led by Radha Yadav.

The squads: Test: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Varma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Amanjot Kaur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Uma Chetry (wk), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Renuka Singh, Sneh Rana, Kranti Gaud, Vaishnavi Sharma and Sayali Satghare. **India-A:** Radha Yadav (Capt.), Humairaa Kaazi, Vrinda Dinesh, Anushka Sharma, Deeya Yadav (subject to fitness), Tejal Hasabnis, Nandani Kashyap (wk), Mamta M (wk), (subject to fitness), Sonia Mendhiya, Minnu Mani, Tanuja Kanwer, Prema Rawat, Saima Thakor, Jintamani Kalita and Nandani Sharma.

Olympic gold medallist lifter Zaremba passes away

Ota Zaremba, who won a weightlifting gold medal at the 1980 Moscow Olympics before admitting to using performance-enhancing drugs under a secret program run by the totalitarian regime in the former Czechoslovakia, died on Friday. He was 68.

Anahat Singh advances in Sprott Champions squash

Anahat Singh beat England's Lucy Turmel 11-3, 11-6, 9-11, 13-11 and made the second round of Sprott Tournament of Champions, a PSA Platinum squash event, in New York. Abhay Singh lost to Spain's Iker Pajares 4-11, 11-4, 7-11, 11-3, 3-11.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 8.45 a.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.30 p.m. & 5.30 a.m. (Monday)
India vs New Zealand: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.
HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

Himanshu shows the way as MP bats Karnataka out of the contest

The visiting team grabs an overall lead of 336 runs with four wickets in hand going into the final day; the host gets bowled out for 191 in its first essay

RANJI TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Madhya Pradesh took a firm grip on proceedings on the third day of its Ranji Trophy Elite Group B outing against Karnataka at Alur (1) grounds here on Saturday.

After gaining a substantial first-innings lead, Madhya Pradesh moved to 204 for six and grabbed an overall advantage of 336 runs.

Karnataka managed to add only 23 runs to its overnight total, and was bowled out for 191 in the morning session. V. Vyshak (5) was cleaned up by pacer Kuldeep Sen, leaving K.V. Aneesh to bat with No. 11 Vidwath Kaverappa.

Aneesh (92), the only batter who showed fight, missed out on maiden First Class hundred when he was snapped up by Rajat Patidar at slip.

Standing tall: Himanshu's unbeaten 89 has put MP in the driver's seat. K. MURALI KUMAR

Karnataka avoided the follow-on, but a 132-run innings lead put Madhya Pradesh in the driver's seat.

The visitor doubled down with a stoic performance with the bat, led by Himanshu Mantri (89 batting, 203b, 4x4). The opener blunted the Karnataka attack with a dead bat, leading Madhya Pradesh to an impregnable position.

Karnataka enjoyed some moments of success with the ball. Left-arm spinner Shikhar Shetty removed Yash Dubey leg-before, before fast bowler Vidyadhar Patil took out Shubham Sharma (32) and Rajat Patidar (0) in the same over. Danger man Venkatesh Iyer (1) chopped one from Shreyas Gopal onto the stumps.

At 99 for four, Karnataka harboured slim hopes of making a comeback.

Himanshu, however, stood firm to bat Karnataka out of the contest.

The home team suffered an injury scare when Karun Nair suffered a split webbing on his left hand which required five stitches.

A decision on the availability of wicketkeeper K.L. Shrijith, who injured his finger but came out to bat, will be taken on Sunday morning.

Madhya Pradesh was dealt a big blow as well, when all-rounder Saransh Jain retired hurt after being struck by a rising delivery.

Table-topper Karnataka will have to show tremendous character on the final day to escape with a draw.

The scores: Madhya Pradesh — 1st innings: 323.
Karnataka — 1st innings: Mayank Agarwal c Sagar b Aryan 0, K.V. Aneesh c Patidar b Saransh 92, Devdutt Padikkal lbw b Saransh 0, Karun Nair run out 12, K.L. Shrijith c Himanshu b Kuldeep 7, Abhinav Manohar st. Himanshu b Saransh 14, Shreyas Gopal lbw b Saransh 41, Shikhar Shetty lbw b Aryan 5, Vidyadhar Patil b Sagar 4, V. Vyshak b Kuldeep 5, Vidwath Kaverappa (not out) 8; Extras (lb-3) 3; Total (in 64.1 overs): 191.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-5, 3-19, 4-39, 5-60, 6-142, 7-155, 8-162, 9-172.

Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kartikeya 10-1-45-1, Aryan 12-1-35-2, Saransh 20.1-4-42-4, Kuldeep 12-1-45-2, Sagar 10-3-21-1.

Madhya Pradesh — 2nd innings: Yash Dubey lbw b Shikhar 17, Himanshu Mantri (batting) 89, Shubham Sharma b Vidyadhar 32, Rajat Patidar b Vidyadhar 0, Venkatesh Iyer b Shreyas 1, Akshat Raghuwanshi b Shikhar 13, Saransh Jain (retd. hurt) 15, Sagar Solanki lbw b Vidyadhar 13, Aryan Pandey (batting) 13; Extras (b-5, w-6): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 71 overs): 204.

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-96, 3-96, 4-99, 5-123, 6-179.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 13-4-28-0, Vidyadhar 16-5-39-3, Vyshak 11-1-39-0, Shikhar 11-0-41-2, Shreyas 20-3-52-1.

RANJI SCORES — SIXTH ROUND (DAY THREE)

Elite: Group A: At Bhubaneswar: Tamil Nadu 286 & 316 in 88.2 overs (S.R. Athish 88, G. Ajitesh 49, Sonu Yadav 74, Sai Kishore 40) vs. Odisha 148 in 51.2 overs & 47/2 in 15.3 overs

At Anantapur: Vidarbha 295 & 191 in 55.2 overs (Aman Mokhade 51, R. Samarth 47, Yash Rathod 56, Kavuri Saiteja 4/28) vs. Andhra Pradesh 228 & 93/1 in 26 overs (S.K. Rasheed 50 batting).

At Lucknow: Jharkhand 561/6 decl. vs. Uttar Pradesh 176 in 56.2 overs (Abhishek Goswami 85, Shubham Kumar Singh 4/45) & 69/7 in 23 overs.

Group B: At Pune: Goa 209 & 210/6 in 73 overs (Abhinav Tejrana 109, Darshan Misal 52 batting) vs. Maharashtra 350 in 106 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 66, Saurabh Nawale 105, Lalit Yadav 4/98).

At Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala 139 & 185 in 48 overs (Vishnu Vinod 56, Salman Nizar 53, Rohit Dhanda 4/38) lost to Chandigarh 416. **Points:** Chandigarh 7 (8), Kerala 0 (8).

At Bengaluru: Madhya Pradesh 323 & 204/6 in 71 overs (Himanshu Mantri 89 batting) vs. Karnataka 191 in 64.1 overs (Aneesh K.V. 92, Shreyas Gopal 41, Saransh Jain 4/42).

Group C: At Agartala: Tripura 266 & 247/8 in 84 overs (Bikramjit Debnath 48, Sentu Sarkar 50 batting, Mayank Mishra 4/59) vs. Uttarakhand 301 in 88.2 overs (Lakshya Raichandani 65, Shashwat Dangwal 42, Jagadeesha Suchith 86, Saurabh Rawat 80, Manishankar Murasingh 6/48).

At Fulung: Assam 247 & 136/7 in 53 overs (Mukhtar Hussain 40 batting) vs. Haryana 236 in 71.3 overs (Yuvraj Singh 84, Ankit Kumar 50, Mukhtar Hussain 4/72).

At Kalyani: Bengal 519 vs. Services 186 in 53.5 overs (Nakul Sharma 85 n.o., Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 4/51) & 231/8 in 61 overs (Mohit Ahlawat 62, Rajat Paliwal 83, Mohammed Shami 5/51).

At Nadiad: Gujarat 175 & 347 in 89.4 overs (Aarya Desai 40, Jaymeet Patel 101, Urvil Patel 64, Karn Sharma 5/87) vs. Railways 424.

Group D: At Jaipur: Himachal Pradesh 406 & 38/0 in 10 overs vs. Rajasthan 342 in 131.2 overs (M.J. Suthar 120, A.B. Kookna 55, Amol Chelani 52, Aryaman Dhaliwal 5/101, Mukul Negi 4/108).

At Bengaluru: Delhi 216 & 158/3 in 30 overs (Sanat Sangwan 44, Priyansh Arya 82) vs. Chhattisgarh 505 in 156.5 overs (Ayush Pandey 183, Anuj Tiwary 108, Shubham Agrawal 49 n.o.).

At Hyderabad: Mumbai 560 vs. Hyderabad 267 in 82.2 overs (Rahul Singh Gahlaut 96, K. Himateja 40) & 166/7 in 39.3 overs (K. Himateja 43).

At Puducherry: Pondicherry 233 vs. J & K 150/6 in 60 overs (Shubham Khajuria 46, Abdul Samad 40 batting).

Plate: Final: At Patna: Bihar 522 & 84/2 in 25 overs vs. Manipur 264 in 89.1 overs (Ronald Longjam 79).

Royals take on Toofans for a place in the final

HIL

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Ranchi Royals will hope that a second chance to make the Hockey India League final does the trick when it meets Hyderabad Toofans in Qualifier 2 at the Kalinga Stadium here on Sunday.

While Royals lost to Vedanta Kalinga Lancers in Qualifier 1, Toofans moved in to Qualifier 2 following its win over HIL GC in the Eliminator on Friday.

Royals will have to deal with the additional pressure of rotating its overseas players due to the absence of Josh Beltz, who has fractured his finger.

Ranchi Royals, with players like Manpreet in its ranks, will need to get its act together in Qualifier 2. BISWARANJAN ROUT

In a team consisting of Tom Boon, Sam Lane, Mandeep Singh and Manpreet Singh, Royals need to show a bit of composure and better finishing skills to realise their potential.

Compact structure

Toofans, who rely on their compact structure, will bank on Michel Struttoff, Zach Wallace and Amandeep Lakra to carry forward their brand of attacking hockey.

The winner of the match will take on Lancers in the final on Monday.

Commanding wins for Ishaan and Nigel

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Ishaan Madesh and Nigel Abraham Thomas delivered commanding wins from pole position in the MRF Formula 2000 and Formula 1600 categories, respectively, in the fourth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship on Saturday.

In the MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) category, Tarushi Vikram claimed her maiden victory of the season with an impressive drive from pole, while Ritesh Rai (Buzzing Hornet) and T.S. Diljith (DTS Racing) extended their winning runs in the Indian Touring Cars and Super Stock classes, respectively.

Ishaan Madesh.

Tarushi Vikram.

The results (provisional, all Race-1, 8 laps): MRF F2000: 1. Ishan Madesh (12mins, 51.183secs); 2. Arjun Chheda (12:52.050); 3. Shivesh Selvarathnam (13:03.800).
MRF F1600: 1. Nigel Abraham Thomas (13:55.894); 2. Arjun. S. Nair (13:56.411); 3. Sai Shiva Makesh Sankaran (13:57.709).
Indian Touring Cars: 1. Ritesh Rai (Buzzing Hornet) (14:59.428); 2. Karna Kadur (Arka Motorsports) (15:03.519); 3. Biren Pithawalla (N1 Racing) (15:03.924). **ITC 1625:** 1. Nikanth Rambabu (Performance Racing) (15:52.940); 2. Vidyaprakash 3. Damodaran (Performance Racing) (16:07.926).
Indian Junior Touring Cars: 1. Deepak Ravikumar (Performance Racing) (15:32.831); 2. Viswas Vijayaraj (Performance Racing) (15:33.210); 3. R. Raja Rajan (Performance Racing) (15:45.157).
Super Stock: 1. T.S. Diljith (DTS Racing) (16:36.868); 2. Lal Kattikulam Bharathan (DTS Racing) (16:48.941); 3. Anirudha Arvind (DTS Racing) (16:54.675).
Formula LGB 1300 (Open and Junior): 1. Aditya Patnaik (Momentum Motorsports) (17:57.626); 2. Bhuvan Bonu (MSport) (17:57.813); 3. Joel Joseph (DTS Racing) (18:00.792).
MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios): 1. Tarushi Vikram (16:59.449); 2. Mohammed Arfath (17:06.681); 3. Akshay Muralidhran (17:08.397).
Volkswagen Polo Cup: 1. Aman Nagdev (15:32.762); 2. Aditya (15:36.672); Ojas Surve (15:38.390).

Gukesh goes down to Abdusattorov

CHESS

Press Trust of India
WIJK AAN ZEE

Grandmaster D. Gukesh fell into a blindspot and made an unimaginable blunder as he went down to Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the sixth round of the Tata Steel chess on Saturday.

Top-seeded Indian GM Arjun Erigaisi, meanwhile, benefitted from a similar oversight by Matthias Bluebaum of Germany to salvage half-a-point.

On a day filled with drama, Gukesh blundered almost with a blind-eye and had to resign immediately in a position he would have survived with a draw.

While this was the first instance for Gukesh to go through this after becoming a GM, his fans and followers would hope that it would also be the last time.

Sixth round results: Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 4.5) bt D. Gukesh (Ind, 3); R. Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 2) drew with Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 3.5); Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 3) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 2.5). Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind, 2) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 4); Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 3.5) lost to Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3.5).
Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (Tur, 3) bt Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 3); Thai Dai Van Nugyen (Cze, 2) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Karthikeya smashes double century

K.P. Karthikeya smashed a double century (200, 233b, 14x4, 10x6) as Karnataka ran up a mammoth score of 634 for four declared on day two of its C.K. Nayudu (U-23) Trophy encounter against Chandigarh at the Alur grounds here on Saturday.
From an overnight 369 for two – with Karthikeya on 155 – the home side sent the Chandigarh bowlers on a leather hunt.
Though Dhruv Prabhakar could only add 10 more to his first day tally before being dismissed (80, 153b, 7x4, 1x6), Karthikeya marched on. He only fell with Karnataka's total at 442, but the visitors' misery just compounded as skipper Aneeshwar Gautam (110 n.o., 117b, 6x4, 7x6) and Harshil Dharmani (100 n.o., 93b, 11x4, 4x6) combined for an unbroken 192-run stand for the fifth wicket.
At stumps, Chandigarh was 98 for three, trailing by a massive 536 runs.
The scores: Karnataka 634/4 in 138.2 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 95, Faizan Khan 45, K.P. Karthikeya 200, Dhruv Prabhakar 80, Aneeshwar Gautam 110 n.o., Harshil Dharmani 100 n.o.) vs. Chandigarh 98/3 in 40 overs (Dushyant 59).

Karthikeya in action on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Advay puts Ebenezer IS in the semifinals

Advay Choudhary's all-round effort (113 n.o., & 6/20) helped Ebenezer International School beat VSS International Public School by 86 runs to enter the semifinals of the BTR Shield (U-14) second division tournament.
The scores (quarterfinals): The Sports School 399/8 in 50 overs (T. Keshava 102, Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 177) bt Vydehi School of Excellence 145 in 46.3 overs.
Ebenezer IS 171 in 40 overs (Advay Choudhary 113 n.o.) bt VSS International PS 85 in 30.2 overs (Advay Choudhary 6/20).
DPS, Whitefield 238/9 in 50 overs (Aadit Kaul 110, Ansh Singh 4/33) lost to Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir, East, 240/9 in 48.5 overs (Tejasvi Sharma 63, Ansh Shukla 48 n.o., Aadit Kaul 4/35).
Bishop Cotton Boys School 118 in 48.1 overs (Reyes Raj Madhusudhan 63 n.o., Aaryan Nagesh 5/12) lost to School of India 120/3 in 31.2 overs (Hrithvik Shetty 55).

Amit stars as Maharashtra Kesari jumps to the top spot in PWL

Sports Bureau
NOIDA

Amit came through for Maharashtra Kesari, winning 6-5 against Ashirov Ashraf in the 86kg to help his team win a close Match 10 against Haryana Thunders 5-4 and go top of the Pro Wrestling League table in the process with six points in four matches.

The teams exchange lead till the end before Amit sealed it for Kesari. This was Haryana's first loss.

The results:
Maharashtra Kesari bt Haryana Thunders 5-4: Men: **57kg:** Ankush Chandram (Thunders) bt Sumit Malik (Kesari) 11-5.
65kg: Tevanyan Vazgen (Kesari) bt Tumur Ochir Tulga (Thunders) 10-4; **74kg:** Parvinder (Thunders) bt Yash (Kesari) 14-8; **86kg:** Amit (Kesari) bt Ashirov Ashraf (Thunders) 6-5.
125kg: Robert Baran (Kesari) bt Anirudh Gulia (Thunders) 7-3.
Women: 53kg: Yui Susaki (Thunders) bt Guzman Lopez Yusnelyis (Kesari) 6-0 by Fall; **57kg:** Manisha Bhanvala (Kesari) bt Neha Sangwan (Thunders) 7-6; **62kg:** Dudova Bilyana Zhivkova (Kesari) bt Iryna Koliadenko (Thunders) 7-1.
76kg: Kajal Dhochak (Thunders) bt Harshita Mor (Kesari) 9-2 by Fall.

Bhavina plans extensive overseas schedule

PARA TABLE TENNIS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Bhavina Patel – a former World No. 1 in para table tennis and currently ranked 3 in Class 4 – is competing in Chennai for the first time. The third National-ranking event marks her return to competitive action this season after recovering from a left knee meniscus tear, sustained ahead of the Asian Championships in October last year.

Following surgery, she skipped the first two domestic tournaments to ensure full recovery.

Asked about beginning a new season, Bhavina responded in her trademark understated manner. "I just play," she said.

Bhavina has planned an extensive overseas schedule this year. "In India, we don't get to face many players with different styles," she said.

"That's why I plan to play around 12 international tournaments, competing in singles and mixed doubles with Jashvant Choudhary. International exposure brings variation, which is crucial at the top level."

The year 2026 will be pivotal, featuring the Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (October 18-24), followed by the World Championships in Pattaya, Thailand (November 23-29). "Both tournaments are extremely important," Bhavina said. "We are ready for that challenge."

Bhavina has called for the formation of a professional league for para athletes on the lines of the UTT. R. RAVINDRAN

She traced her rise to World No.1 last year in combined Classes 1-5 to the motivation drawn from her quarterfinal loss at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. The following season proved her resolve, as she won 13 international medals.

Looking ahead, Bhavina called for a professional league for para athletes on the lines of the Ultimate Table Tennis, describing such a platform as a potential game-changer for Paralympians.